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NEWS SUMMARY.

WAR NEWS.

From Gen. Grant's Army.

A Nashville dispatch of Dec. 15, says: There is a rumor here that Gen. Sheridan, commanding the column in pursuit of Longstreet, encountered the rear-guard east of Knoxville, and sustained a heavy repulse, in which General Sheridan is said to have been badly wounded. Gen. Palmer had resigned his command of the 14th Corps, and reached Bridgeport on his way home, when he received orders to return to Chattanooga, his resignation not having been accepted. Col. Mesenor reports from Columbia that the Rebel deserters and citizens are flocking to that post in great numbers, asking to be allowed to take oath under the President's proclamation. Col. M. says, in regard to the numbers arriving, that he has never seen the like. A few days ago, a Capt. Perkins of the 11th Tennessee Cavalry applied to Gen. Rosecrans for permission to take the oath of allegiance under the Amnesty Proclamation. He says in a letter that the actual position of Tennessee is not understood or appreciated by Tennesseeans in the Rebel Army, and their eyes have been opened only since his capture.

The Louisville Journal has some particulars of the battle of Kingston on Nov. 24, between part of Col. Mott's brigade and Wheeler's cavalry, who were repulsed with heavy loss. The fight continued without intermission for seven hours, and was participated in on our side by the 16th Kentucky, 25th Michigan, and six companies of the 2d Tennessee Cavalry. Artillery was brought into action on both sides, and the shells of the enemy were thrown into the town. The casualties on our side were comparatively slight. The brigade of Col. Mott numbers 2,700, but only the above-mentioned regiments were engaged—the others being posted in the rear of the town to prevent the enemy flanking them.

A dispatch from Chattanooga, Dec. 14, says Colonel Watkins, commanding the Kentucky brigade, returned to-day from a cavalry reconnoissance as far as Lafayette. He captured a Rebel signal-station and six officers and forty privates. The remainder of the large force of Rebels fled. A rumor prevails that Longstreet in his retreat from Knoxville lost 4,000 prisoners and nearly all his cannon and trains. Gen. Palmer's resignation as Commander of the 14th Corps, which was accepted, has been recalled, and he is again in command.

There was a raid to Mount Sterling, Kentucky, on Tuesday night, under command of Major Chenoweth, of about 200 men. They burned the Court-House, took about 50 horses, what commissary stores they wanted, and left for Dixie in haste. The 40th Kentucky was camped about a mile from the place, and by the time they got ready to come the Rebels had fled toward the Olympian Spring. They took, along the road, all the horses they could catch. The records of the Clerk's offices were partially destroyed.

A Louisville dispatch says the guerrillas in Cumberland, Wayne, and Clinton Counties are very troublesome, and often make raids across the Cumberland, destroying property, stealing horses, and conscripting citizens. They are generally believed to be Rebel citizens, who take this method of robbing the Union men. Four thousand and two hundred Chattanooga prisoners have passed through Louisville.

Rebels from Bristol, Dec. 14, say that Longstreet was at Rodgersville, Hawkins County, Tenn., with the main body of his army. (This place is not far from the Virginia border). A dispatch two days earlier was sure that Longstreet would hold the entire country.

Cairo dispatches of Dec. 16 say, that in Memphis the military authorities are seizing all horses and mules not specially reserved for army uses, paying a [illegible]. There was a large fire in Memphis on the 11th.

From Gen. Meade's Army.

The United States gunboat Kanawha captured on the 29th of November the schooner Alesta or Wina, off Mobile Bay. She has been awaiting an opportunity for many weeks to escape from Mobile, and was captured soon after crossing the bar. She had neither log-book nor Custom-House papers. The supposed owner, Doyd, was a passenger. Her cargo consists of cotton, rosin, and turpentine, and is very valuable. About $5,500 in specie was found on the passengers, also a large amount of railroad bonds. The [illegible] and bonds have been placed in the keeping of Acting Paymaster Penniman of the Kanawha.

A reconnoitering party sent out some days ago to perfect our maps in the region north of Culpepper and along the base of the Blue Ridge as far as Sperryville and Little Washington, returned to camp on Friday. The party encountered no enemy in force, but fell in with several small squads belonging to the 6th Virginia Cavalry. With the exception of the barns immediately on the line of the principal routes, all the houses were well stocked with the necessaries of life, such as meats, poultry and breadstuffs, with a sufficient supply of forage to winter their scanty stock of herds.

At midnight on the 10th about thirty guerrillas made a dash at our picket lines, three miles from Chain Bridge and five from Georgetown. They captured one man and six horses. The picket reserve rallied and fired three volleys into them, killing one and injuring another. Before coming into our picket lines they stopped at the house of one Griffith, and representing themselves as Union cavalry, he told them where our men were posted, and in a few minutes afterward they were in full retreat, evidently having waked up the wrong cavalry.

George H. Stuart, President, and Joseph Patterson, Treasurer, of the Christian Commission, have just returned from a tour of inspection in the Army of the Potomac. The contributions for the work are liberal, about $60,000 having been received during the week. With this assistance operations are to be extended to all the corps and divisions for the temporal as well as the spiritual welfare of the soldiers.

About 100 of Moseby's and White's guerrillas appeared in the vicinity of Lovettsville, Va., about midnight of the 8th inst. They took old Dr. Shaffer from his bed and demanded his watch and hat. They took his hat from his head and then released him. Moseby was with the gang. His headquarters are at Markham, on the railroad, in Fauquier County. These guerrillas wear full Union uniform.

The army has lost a most efficient and worthy officer. Not three days ago, Gen. Buford was ordered to the command of the cavalry in the Army of the Cumberland; he was made a Major-General at the time. Yesterday (Dec. 16), Major-Gen. Buford died of typhoid fever in Washington. The hero of a hundred fights, his memory will be cherished by every patriot and friend of his country.

The report that the enemy had thrown a force on the north bank of the Rapidan is incorrect. The pickets of the two armies occupy their former positions. At the upper fords on the river the enemy's pickets are posted, as formerly, on the north bank; but from Somerville and Ely's Fords the two armies are separated by the Rapidan. We occupy the same position precisely as before the advance.

On Thursday night about 5,000 horses stampeded from the cavalry camp at Giesboro', near Washington. An attempt was made to stop them, while passing over the bridge communicating with Washington, but it did not succeed. A great many of them fell into the river and were drowned.

From Gen. Gillmore's Army.

The monitor Weehawken, Commander Duncan, [illegible] on Sunday, Dec. 6, off Morris Island, during a gale. The vessel was lying lower than usual in the water, and the deck was, consequently, continually [illegible] the waves. The fore-hatchway, by some [illegible], had been left open, and volumes of water were thrown through it into the anchor-room, which became full before the accident was discovered, and even then the extent of the danger was not ascertained until too late. The arrangements for clearing the room of water were out of order; no person had the presence of mind to close the air-tight bulkhead between the Captain's cabin and the windlass-room, and she began to sink. The wildest confusion ensued. There was a rush for the boats, which a few reached, and then the monitor went down, headforemost, carrying with her sick men in their cots, unconscious engineers at their engine, prisoners in irons, the surgeons, steward, and others. The number of men lost is 30.

Richmond papers have dispatches from Charleston to the 15th inst. They report the frequent shelling of the city, on one day with Greek fire; buildings are damaged, but "nobody hurt," (for the possible reason that there is nobody left in the city). Fort Sumter had been on fire; ten men more killed and thirty wounded. (This was doubtless the effect of Gillmore's shells, but the Rebels are silent as to the cause).

Gen. Gillmore threw a few more shells into Charleston on Thursday, 10th inst., which (the Rebels say) did no damage worth noting.

From Gen. Banks's Army.

Since the capture of Port Hudson, La., the Corps d'Afrique has been stationed within the fortifications, employed in strengthening the works, in erecting a great interior fort, and in clearing the country around from guerrillas. There are twenty regiments, divided into four brigades and two divisions, the whole under command of Brig.-Gen. L. Andrews, the 1st Division being commanded by Brig.-Gen. Ullmann of New-York. On the 15th inst. a very interesting ceremony took place. A beautiful stand of colors had been prepared by Messrs. George Opdyke, A. T. Stewart, A. A. Low, Moses H. Grinnell, Edgar Ketchum, and other prominent citizens of New-York, and on the above-mentioned day were presented to the 7th Regiment by Chaplain Conway. The various regiments were in line, and after some evolutions, the presentation was made. An address from the donors was read by Dr. Conway, to which the Colonel made a fitting response. A short address was made by Brig.-Gen. Andrews, after which Brig.-Gen. Ullmann, by request of the Colonel commanding the regiment, made an excellent concluding speech.

Later news from Texas reached Washington on Saturday. Gen. Banks announces that forces under Major-Gen. Washburne have seized the approaches to Matagorda. The Rebel garrison of Fort Esperanza, consisting of 1,000 men, fled at the approach of our troops, first blowing up the magazines. A high gale prevented the coöperation of the gunboats with the land forces, or the enemy would probably have fallen into our hands. Ten guns were captured, ranging from 24 to 108-pounders. The command of Matagorda Bay substantially gives us the control of Central and Western Texas, and all the important points on the east coast except Galveston. The town of Matagorda, situated on the bay, at the mouth of the Colorado River, has a large trade, and is the depot for the produce of the Colorado Valley, which is one of the richest parts of Texas.

Letters from the Banks Expedition state, what we were fully prepared to hear, that wherever the old flag is unfurled the people of Texas hail it with enthusiasm. They [illegible] compulsion. It ought not be many weeks before we hear of the extinction of Rebel power along the coast, and then Texas will reassert her loyalty by a prompt reconstruction of her State Government.

We have New-Orleans dates to Dec. 8. The papers give some particulars of affairs in Texas. Port Cavallo was captured without loss on our side; ten heavy guns were taken. This place is on the peninsula which separates Matagorda Bay from the Gulf, and its possession gives us command of Salaria, Port Lavacca, and Matagorda, on the water, and Victoria and other towns inland.

From Gen. Butler's Army.

Gen. Butler reviewed his troops at Newport News on the 8th. The day was pleasant, and the review passed off finely. The troops reviewed were the North Carolina veterans, cavalry, artillery and infantry, who formed a portion of Burnside's expedition to that State. The 1st Regiment U. S. Colored Cavalry, now being raised in Gen. Butler's Department, is rapidly progressing toward completion. It is now but two weeks since recruiting began for this regiment, and it is already more than half raised.

Miscellaneous.

We have Richmond news to the 9th. The Rebel Congress met on Monday, and Davis's Message was delivered. Charleston dispatches of the 8th say that the Unionists fire no more on Sumter, but peg away at Fort Moultrie. The Rebel batteries keep up a slow fire. Grant's cavalry appeared on the 7th at Ringgold, but were driven back by a Rebel force. Advices from Bristol say that Longstreet raised the siege of Knoxville because Burnside had got large reënforcements; that the attack upon Burnside on the 29th of November failed "in consequence of forged orders, recalling Anderson's brigade." Longstreet's loss is put down at six hundred, mostly of Gen. Hood's division. Later Richmond papers say that Longstreet's command is at Rutledge, 30 miles north-west of Knoxville, on the road to Bristol, South-Western Virginia, and in a comparatively safe position. His rear was skirmishing with our cavalry, but our pursuit is said not to have been vigorous. A Rebel raiding party had penetrated to Mount Sterling, Ky., encountering a body of our troops whom it claims to have routed after a stout fight. The Rebels then burned the Court-House and jail, and returned to Abingdon, Va., with $100,000 in greenbacks in the way of booty.

The Washington Star of the 16th inst. has the following: Last evening the Chief of the Bureau of Exchange and Prisoners, Maj.-Gen. Hitchcock, received from Brig.-Gen. Meredith a copy of a letter addressed to him on the 11th inst. by Robert Ould, the Rebel Commissioner of Exchange, etc., announcing the determination of the Rebel War Department hereafter to receive no more provisions from the North for our prisoners in their hands. We hear from "Fortress Monroe" that he alleges persistent "villification and abuse" with reference to the manner in which the Rebel authorities have carried out their pledges upon the subject, as the reason why they break up the arrangement. He promises, however, to deliver faithfully all the supplies in question that had been received up to the time the letter was written, and adds that hereafter our prisoners in their hands will be treated precisely as they ration their soldiers in the field.

The Rebel depot for prisoners in Texas is at Tyler, Smith County, 110 miles west of Shreveport. They have there about 600 Union prisoners, among them Col. Charles H. Nott and Lieut.-Col. Duganne of the 176th New-York, Lieut. Gillette, a son of Dr. Gillette of New-York, Capt. Allen, Lieut. Page, and Surgeon Hushey of the 1st Regiment of Ullmann's Brigade, captured early in the Summer at Brashear City. They were kept in irons for two months, when their shackles were removed, and they were afterward treated as other prisoners. Food and clothing are scarce and poor.

The correspondence between Gen. Butler and the Rebel Commissioner, Mr. Ould, has been published. It appears that small-pox has broken out among the Union prisoners at Belle Isle, and that Gen. Butler has forwarded a quantity of vaccine matter, which has been received and acknowledged by Mr. Ould. The provisions and clothing sent to our imprisoned soldiers have been distributed to them, according to the statements of some of the prisoners themselves.

Though Gen. Butler and a member of the Sanitary Commission, now at Fortress Monroe, have telegraphed to the Government that the Rebel authorities have stopped the distribution of supplies sent from the loyal States to the Union prisoners in their hands, we are notified that up to this time no information had reached Washington indicating that anything like an official Rebel notice has been communicated to either Maj.-Gen. Butler or Brig.-Gen. Meredith. The fact that Robert Ould, the Rebel Commissioner of Exchange, has promptly replied to Gen. Butler's tender of vaccine matter, to be used among the Union prisoners confined at Richmond, Lynchburg, and other points in Rebeldom, that it would be disposed of promptly as requested, leads us to hope that there may be, after all, a mistake in attributing to the Rebel authorities the atrocious purpose of denying to the Union prisoners in their hands the articles necessary to their proper sustenance forwarded from the North.

A New-Orleans correspondent of *The Boston Traveller* writes that the expedition of Gen. Banks to Texas is a glorious success. The Union men are rallying under the standard of Gen. Banks in large numbers. All the Texans required was a force to back them up, and they repeatedly said that if a sufficient army was sent to assist them they would soon have Texas all right again. They have already proved the truth of their statements, for Gen. Banks has recruited two regiments since he landed in that State, and the work is still going on, the Texans coming from their places of concealment and enrolling themselves in the Union Army.

Gen. Butler is waking up his Department. On the 12th inst. an expedition penetrated as far as Charles City Court-House (on the north side of James River, not far below City Point), which captured eight officers and 82 enlisted men, being the whole command of three companies. The enemies camp, with its equipment, arms, ammunition, and provisions, was destroyed. Our loss is Capt. Gregory, severely wounded, one sergeant and one corporal killed, and four men wounded. The New-York Mounted Rifles, in 44 hours, marched 76 miles; the 139th New-York Infantry, in 54 hours, marched 61 miles, mostly in a severe storm, moving day and night, and walking their shoes off.

Accounts received at Cairo are to the effect that Marmaduke is endeavoring to unite his forces with Price, who was said to be crossing the Red river into Texas. Price's force was much reduced, and numbered less than 5,000. A large Union force was pursuing him. The Rebels are much disheartened.

Provost-Gen. Hayes (this city) has put a check upon substitute brokers in an order which says that all recruiting officers are ordered not to swear in any recruit or veteran unless said recruit or veteran receives the full bounty of $300, and the person to receive the money himself.

The President has signed a pardon, exempting E. W. Gantt of Arkansas from the penalty of treason, which he incurred by accepting and exercising the [illegible] of property excepting those relating to slaves.

The Louisville Journal has advices, which it credits, that the Rebel Gen. Morgan was in Cumberland County, Kentucky, on the morning of the 7th, in company with five of his officers, proceeding toward Dixie.

Gen. Meredith believes that the Union prisoners on Belle Isle, at Richmond, are now sheltered by tents. He has requested Mr. Ould to distribute clothing and food to the citizen prisoners also, and thinks he will do so.

The Washington Star says three Rebel spies were captured in that city on Wednesday. Their names are Henry Marston, and David and Robert Boyle. Letters from various parties in New-York were found upon Marston.

The story that Gen. Thomas F. Meagher had been captured by the Rebels is denied.

GENERAL NEWS.

The monitor Weehawken foundered at her moorings off Charleston, South Carolina, on the 6th instant. The following are the particulars of the disaster: The Weehawken was anchored with the rest of the fleet operating at Charleston, her position being second in the line of iron-clads between Morris and Sullivan Islands, and being the next but one (the Montauk being the first) to Fort Sumter. She was under charge of Commander Calhoun, who, however, was not on board at the time of her loss. On Saturday night, the 5th, the weather, which had been calm, became stormy, and on Sunday morning the sea ran very high. The vessel rolled a great deal, and seas were constantly shipped, which, pouring down the forward hatchway, filled the anchor room. This appears to have caused no anxiety—even when the water could not be got aft, so as to be pumped out, there appeared to be little trouble taken on the subject. The apparatus for preventing the rush of water to the cabin was out of order also, and the officers and men went to dinner as usual, without dreaming that a six-inch stream of water was pouring into the vessel. When this was discovered the cry, "She is sinking," created a panic, and the ordinary means of endeavoring to save her were neglected, as, for instance, closing the water-tight bulkhead, between the captain's cabin and the windlass room. There was only one small apperture for escape, and officers and men crowded to it, while the engineers, who were unaware of their danger, were forgotten. The vessel went down with sick men in their cots, men in irons between decks, the yeoman who tried to release them, and the surgeon's steward who tried to save those who were helpless. Thirty men were thus drowned. Those who got away in the boats were with difficulty rescued, owing to the high sea. It is believed that all the officers were saved except the four assistant engineers.

The Weehawken, as is well known, is a monitor. Her capacity is 844 tuns burden, and she carries two heavy guns in the usual revolving turret, and she is about 200 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 12 feet deep. Her side armor is five inches thick, and that of her turret eleven inches thick. The ram extends in front and looks as sharp as an ax-blade. The vessel is provided with six water-tight compartments, connected with each other by suitable doorways. The engines and machinery were of the best description; the cylinders, we believe, are 40 inches. Her officers and crew having been changed very frequently of late, it is impossible to give an accurate list of either until the arrival of the Arago, which will be about Tuesday next.

A letter received by an officer at the New-York Naval Station from one of the officers of the Weehawken, states that Admiral Dahlgren had entered into definite arrangements for raising her. The contract completed by the Admiral stipulates that the Weehawken is to be raised, and the Government is to pay the parties what is right. The letter further states, that before the pumps had got into operation on board the ship she had sunk until her bows were below water mark, rendering them of course useless.

It would be premature to speak positively as to the cause of this terrible catastrophe, but it is proper to say that at the time of her loss the Weehawken had much more shot and shell on board than usual, and required but 300 tuns more to sink her. This circumstance caused her to be low in the water and the deck was almost always submerged. The forward hatch being left open, admitted great bodies of water, and this, which if all the apparatus had been in order could have been got rid of, carried her down head-foremost in a very short space of time. She lies in 5 fathoms.

The Navy Department has received the following list of the lost on the Weehawken:

OFFICERS—H. W. Merian, 3d Assistant Engineer; Augustus Mitchell, do.; G. A. McGowan, Acting do.; Charles Sponberg, Acting do.

MEN—Thomas Piper, John Buckley, John Carpenter, C. F. Davis, C. H. Wilson, C. Anderson, Ralph Anderson, Edward Mullen, James Doman, Robert Nugent, W. G. Fike, Henry Sammes, Thomas Danlow, James Scollins, John Kertigan, Jos. Crogan, John Williams, Wm. H. Williamson, John Rutledge, Edward Gaghan, Michael Clines, Thomas Mee, Thos. Donovan, Geo. Leighton, Thos. Stother, Stephen C. Newman, and one name unknown.

Advices from California to the 10th inst. state that Gov. Stanford delivered his farewell Message on the 9th. It represents the agricultural, mining, manufacturing, and financial condition of the State as improving, and says that the first 50 miles of the Pacific Railroad will be finished within the allotted time. He would treat the seceded States as Territories. The new Governor, F. F. Low, was inaugurated on the 10th. His Message is generally approved. He congratulates the friends of the Union that foreign and domestic foes cannot receive aid and comfort from the Pacific Coast. News has been received from the new wrecking party engaged in searching for treasure where the steamer Golden Gate sunk last year. Four additional boxes of treasure have been recovered. The search will be continued while the favorable season lasts. The Los Angeles Vigilance Committee have taken another prisoner from the possession of the Sheriff and hung him. He had been convicted of an attempt to kill, and sentenced to ten years confinement in the Penitentiary. Previously he had committed murder and confessed his guilt. Mexican dates were to the 27th. Gen. Comonfort had been killed by Mexicans. The French had possession of Queretaro and Guanajuato, and were marching on Guadalajara and Morelia. Manzilla had been sacked and Colima was surrounded by Conservadores, and the Juarez Government was said to be helpless.

A letter received in Washington dated Vera Cruz, Nov. 3, states that in a cabinet council held a few days previous, Juarez and his friends came to the conclusion that the best policy to be pursued in the present critical emergency was to abandon San Luis Potosi and to fall back in a northward direction. In consequence, his main forces, numbering about 6,000 men, left that city under command of Gen. Negrete, marched toward the State of Nuevo Leon, with the probable intention to occupy Monterey, from whence they will easily, if pushed too hardly, reach the Texan frontier. They expect by this maneuver to attract the French into the range of mountains in those regions and to avail themselves of the knowledge they have of the topography of the country, to intercept their communications, harass them in their march, surprise their trains, and finally either disperse or make them give up the pursuit. The retreat of Juarez, however, does not by any means solve the problem of the pacification of the country he has abandoned. Several of his lieutenants are still at large, confronting the troops of the Provisional Government, and occasionally inflicting upon them severe blows.

The Constitution for Nevada, which the people are to vote for or against on the [illegible] next, is published. It declares that every citizen owes paramount allegiance to the Federal Government. Neither the Legislature nor the people are permitted to create a State debt exceeding $300,000, but $3,000,000 in bonds may be issued to aid the construction of the Pacific Railroad. Electors must have their names registered and pay a poll tax before permitted to vote. The legislature is prohibited from passing local or special bills, general laws being required to suit such cases. The sessions of the legislature are fixed at 60 days. The salary of a member at $8 daily. State officers are to be elected for two years, and Supreme Judges for six years. Paper money is prohibited. Mines and mining property are taxed the same as other property. The latter provision meets with decided opposition and may cause the rejection of the constitution by the popular vote.

The Richmond Enquirer of Thursday last contains a report of doings in the Rebel Congress, which augurs that stormy discussions may be expected. Mr. Foote of Tennessee, in a speech, denounces Jeff. Davis as the cause of all the disasters to the Rebel arms, and charges him with exerting a malign influence wherever he has visited the troops, offering to prove that his rulership has almost ruined the country. Adverting to the horrible cruelties practiced upon our prisoners at Richmond, Mr. Foote did not scruple to admit that they had been reduced to starvation, but threw the blame upon Mr. Nortrop, the Rebel Commissary, whom he charged with being stealthily placed the Government in the dishonorable attitude in which this matter makes it stand. The Senate had passed the bill prohibiting the employment of substitutes in the army.

Official communications received at the Headquarters of the Army from Gen. Wright, commanding the Department of the Pacific, show that treaties of peace have finally been concluded with all the bands of Indians within the District of Utah. He says this happy state of affairs is owing to the distinguished bravery and good conduct of the California Column. For the first time in the history of the country, it may now be truly announced that the great emigrant roads through the Territory may be safely traversed by single persons without danger to life or property, or fear of molestation by Indians. Gen. Conner says the Indians are evidently seriously inclined to peace in the future, and after the severe experiences of last Winter, Spring and Summer, will long hesitate ere they again provoke hostilities.

By the steamer Columbia, we have New-Orleans dates to the 5th inst. Gen. Banks had returned from Texas; the military operations there were progressing favorably. One hundred prisoners, captured at Mustang Island, arrived at New-Orleans on the 1st. Directors of the First National Bank of New-Orleans were chosen on the 28th ult. The navigation of the Mississippi was seriously obstructed by large bands of guerrillas. The Methodist Episcopal Churches were to be reopened throughout the districts of Louisiana now occupied by Union troops. An effort was being made in New-Orleans to direct public attention to the necessity of reconstructing the State Government on the basis of free labor. The Governor will probably order a State election about the 25th of January.

In the general hospitals in the Department under the supervision of Dr. McDougall, the Medical Director of the City of New-York, there are 4,824 sick and wounded soldiers, distributed as follows: David's Island, 1,095; Fort Schuyler, 715; Fort Wood, 344; Fort Columbus, 94; Newark, 646; Ladies' Home, 203; Central Park, 228; Mason's General (Rhode Island), 705; Knights', 289; (Boston), 58; Brattleboro', [illegible]; Burlington Hospital, 167. For the entertainment of these brave men, who are excluded from the [illegible], and many other sources of amusement, a number of gentlemen have consented to give gratuitous lectures, on interesting and useful topics.

A Convention of tavern-keepers recently met at Delhi, Delaware County, to adopt a schedule of prices to conform to the times. A tariff was proposed, of which the following are samples: Board per day, $1.10; board per week, $5.00; lodging, 25 cents; horse keeping over night, 25 cents; brandy, per single glass, 25 cents; brandy, where one treats the company, 12½ cents; gin and wine, per single glass, 10 cents—where a company is served, 8 cents; whisky, beer, and cider, per glass, 5 cents. A fine of $25 is imposed where a proprietor compromises for lower rates, except on a poor or hard customer.

The Surgeon of the Board of Enrollment of the Fourth District of Connecticut, Dr. Samuel T. Salisbury, has been recently tried by Court-Martial for sundry violations of the enrollment, and sentenced to pay a fine of $200 and imprisonment for two months, and to be cashiered. The sentence was approved by Major-Gen. Dix after a careful review of the proceedings, with the statement that the conduct of Dr. Salisbury was careless, negligent, and regardless of the delicate and responsible duties with which he was charged. This is the first conviction had under that provision of the Enrollment act which directs the trial and punishment of surgeons for making false reports and neglect of duty.

Our correspondent at St. Louis, writing on the 13th inst., says: "We are still waiting for an official declaration of the votes of the people at the late election. The returns received at the Secretary of State's office are complete now, with the exception of a few counties along the borders, wherein it is more than likely no elections were held. These returns include the military vote, and give the Conservatives less than 1,000 majority. If the election of Judges of the Supreme Court is contested before the State Senate, there is no question that the rejection of soldiers' votes in several of the North Missouri counties will be overruled."

A fire broke out on Tuesday night, about 11 o'clock, in the trunk and valise store of Mr. Lagowitz, No. 356 Broadway, which was got pretty well under, but broke out afresh at 12 o'clock. It was finally subdued. The upper part of the building was occupied by Messrs. Wm. Banks & Co., youths' clothing manufacturers. It was thought the damage would be covered by insurance. The building belongs to the Peter Lorillard Estate and is insured to the full amount of its value. It is also believed that the insurances on the goods will fully cover the damages. The estimated amount of damages on the whole property is $150,000.

The report of the City Inspector for the past week shows that during that period 407 deaths occurred in this city—an increase of 79 in comparison with the mortality of the previous week, and an increase of 56 as compared with the mortality of the corresponding week of 1862. Of the deceased, 80 were men, 97 women, 122 boys, and 108 girls. Consumption swept away 58 victims; scarlet fever 27; typhoid and typhus fever 22. One person was murdered; one drowned; five scalded; and five killed by accidents.

By the arrival of the Brazilian brig Palma at this port we have dates from Rio Janeiro to Oct. 24, Pernambuco Nov. 7, and Rio Grande del Norte Nov. 10. At the election of a new Lower House in Brazil the Liberal party gained a complete victory over the Conservatives. Only 10 Conservatives have been elected out of more than 100 Deputies. The Liberals of Brazil are earnest opponents of England, and in favor of opening the Amazon and establishing a steamboat line between New-York and Rio Janeiro.

Telegrams were received in Washington on [illegible] lately under Gen. Burnside, and the latter had departed from that city for Cincinnati. All was then quiet in the vicinity of Knoxville. It was stated there that much of Gen. Longstreet's artillery and trains had fallen into the hands of our force, but these accounts lacked confirmation.

One of our prisoners, just escaped from Tyler, Northern Texas, says that large gangs of slaves, frequently numbering 500, were constantly passing westward to the interior of the State. Many of the Texans were looking forward to the time when the French would reduce Mexico to subjugation and make it a slave country; so that, even if the Union were restored, they would have a place of refuge for themselves and their human chattels.

Nassau papers of Dec. 2 have been received. The steamers Lucy and Beauregard had arrived from Wilmington. *The Bahama Herald* says: "Advices from Richmond say that the month of December is regarded as the most trying one of the whole war, its entire future and essential final result depending in a very great measure upon the issue." The steamers Dee and Don had sailed to run the blockade.

W. G. Cheeny, formerly public printer, and proprietor of *The Jefferson City Examiner*, is now in Gratiot Street Prison, St. Louis. Cheeny was one of Claib. Jackson's original bridge burners, and left the State about the same time with that functionary. He had made his way to New-York City, where he was working as a printer in *The World* office at the time of his capture. He is a bad one.

The Mixed Commission of the United States and Peru closed its sessions at Lima on the 27th of November, after adjusting all questions pending between the two Governments. The Hon. J. S. Mackie, one of the American Commissioners, has returned to San Francisco. His colleague, the Hon. E. G. Squier, remains in Peru for the purpose of exploring the ruins of the ancient cities of that country.

The Illinois Supreme Court has sustained Gov. Yates's action in prorogueing the Legislature of that State last Summer, Judges Walker and Breeze holding that the proclamation issued by the Governor, and acquiesced in by the General Assembly at the time, terminated its session on the 10th of June.

The July interest on the Indiana Stocks which the State Agent, Auditor and Treasurer declined paying, because the Legislature failed to make the necessary appropriations, will be paid after the 16th inst. at Winslow, Lanier & Co.'s banking-house in New-York, Gov. Morton having arranged with them to advance the necessary funds, and also for the interest due January next.

There are indications (says a Washington dispatch) which point to a change in the command of the Department of Missouri. Gen. Schofield, now in Washington, may be transferred to Baltimore, and either Gen. Schenck or Gen. Rosecrans (probably the latter) ordered to the Missouri Department. Western men say the change would be highly satisfactory and allay all strife.

Twenty-four of the Arctic fleet of whalers have arrived at Honolulu, averaging each 1,160 barrels of oil and 400,000 pounds of bone. Whales were very abundant during the latter part of the season—the water was perfectly alive with them. Hundreds of vessels could easily have been filled with them without perceptibly diminishing their number.

The Malden Bank at Boston, was entered shortly before noon on the 19th. The son of the President was the only person in the bank at the time. He was murdered, and the bank robbed of about all its contents. The amount of money taken was about $3,000, $3,000 in hundred-dollar bills and $2,000 in small bills.

Col. Storer of the 13th New-Hampshire Regiment, while standing near the depot at Forty-second street on Monday night, was caught between two passing trains on the Harlem and New-Haven Railroads, and terribly bruised about the body. Being anxious to proceed on his journey, he was conveyed as far as Bridgeport, where he was conveyed to the Sterling House. Col. S. is a son of Admiral Storer now in command of the Portsmouth Navy-Yard. The Admiral is seriously ill.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1863.

A CASE OF BRIBERY.

A prominent New-England Senator is compromised by evidence going to show that he received $3,000 for his influence in getting a person out of the Old Capitol Prison who had been confined there on a charge of defrauding the Government, and for rendering to the same person other services of a similar nature. The affair has created the utmost astonishment among those who have heard of it. The difficulty of putting a stop to public plundering is greatly enhanced by the high influences which can so often be retained for a small percentage of the ill-gotten gains to screen the culprits from justice after their fraudulent practices have been discovered.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR THE SOUTH.

Mr. Ashley's bill for the establishment of a provisional military government over the districts of country in rebellion, and to authorize the loyal citizens thereof to organize State government, which will be introduced to-morrow, provides:

Section 1. The President to take possession of, and establish and maintain in the districts declared by his first proclamation to be in Rebellion, military Governments which shall be continued until the loyal people therein shall organize State Governments, and elect Senators and Representatives.

Section 2. In addition to the Union officers now allowed, the President shall appoint a Military Governor for each district, who shall have the civil administration thereof until State Governments are formed.

Section 3. The Provisional Governors are severally authorized to appoint a Council of Five, and all needed clerks to aid them.

Section 4. Whenever the people of either district signify to the Provisional Governor a desire for a State Government, he shall order an enrollment of loyal electors, and whenever the number thereof shall equal ten per cent. of the [illegible] President of the voters of 1860, he shall appoint a day for the election of delegates to a convention to declare the will respecting a State Government.

Section 5. The members of the Convention shall meet at the place designated by the Governor, and adopt a Constitution, Republican in form, and shall then be authorized to form a State Government, provided it be not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or the President's Proclamation of January 1, 1863, that no disloyal person or persons who has or have held office under the Rebel Government be allowed to vote, and that no debt contracted by the Rebel State or Government be paid, and that Slavery be abolished and forever prohibited.

Section 6. Said Constitution under rules provided by the Convention, to be submitted to the people, and in case of adoption Senators and Representatives to be elected to Congress.

Section 7. In case the Convention refuses to organize a State Government the Provisional Government to remain until the people shall be willing to form a State Government, when, if the President is satisfied that one-tenth of the people favor it, he shall direct the Provisional Government to order another election to be conducted as hereinbefore set forth.

Section 8. District Courts of the United States to have jurisdiction in the said Districts.

Section 9. Abrogates all laws and decisions heretofore passed or made making distinction between black and white persons.

Section 10. Defines any infringement of individual freedom under the old slave laws to be kidnapping, and provides for the punishment thereof by fine and imprisonment.

Section 11. Gives the President power to establish and discontinue ports of entry in said districts, appoint collectors, &c.

Section 12. Usual repealing clause.

This bill was to have been introduced yesterday, and referred to the Committee on Territories, but has been held back that it might go to the Select Committee which will probably be announced to-morrow.

NATIONAL BANKS.

The following National Banks, making one hundred and fifty-two (157) in all, have received authority to commence Banking operations:

Second National Bank, Elmira, N. Y., Capital....	$200,000
First National Bank, Nashville, Tenn., Capital....	150,000
First National Bank, New-Berlin, N. Y., Capital....	60,000
First National Bank, Danville, Ind., Capital....	60,000
First National Bank, Oskaloosa, Iowa, Capital....	50,000
First National Bank, West Chester, Pa., Capital....	50,000
First National Bank, Goshen, Ind., Capital....	115,000
First National Bank, Huntington, Ind., Capital....	50,000
First National Bank, Madison, Wis., Capital....	50,000
First National Bank, Geneva, Ohio, Capital....	60,000
First National Bank, Auburn, Pa., Capital....	100,000
First National Bank, Ypsilanti, Mich., Capital....	100,000
First National Bank, Dorchester, Mass., Capital....	100,000
First National Bank, Fort Atkinson, Wis., Capital....	50,000

WASHINGTON, Wednesday Dec. 16, 1863.

IMPORTANT MEASURES.

Two important bills and a joint resolution introduced by Mr. Ashley of Ohio yesterday escaped notice in the multiplicity of business brought before the House. One bill repeals the joint resolution explanatory of the Confiscation act, by which the power of confiscation is limited to a Rebel's life estate in real property. The other provides for submitting to the several States an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting Slavery in all States and Territories, thus covering the same ground as the joint resolution introduced by Mr. Wilson of Iowa, which has already been published. Mr. Ashley's joint resolution authorizes the enlistment of colored citizens in the rebellious districts by officers duly employed by the President in the several States called upon to furnish their quota of troops. Soldiers so enlisted are to be credited to the quotas of the States procuring their enlistment by State bounty; otherwise, these and all other colored troops are to be upon the same footing with white soldiers as regards pay, emoluments and pensions.

THE SPECULATION IN GOLD.

The Secretary of the Treasury is contemplating the adoption, with the concurrence of Congress, of some plan by which to curtail the speculation in gold and reduce the premium to its true level, say twenty-five to thirty per cent. One mode is suggested in the bill introduced by Senator Lane of Kansas, yesterday. Another will be embraced in a bill or resolution, soon to be introduced into the House, authorizing the Secretary to use the surplus gold in the Treasury and the avails of bonds sold abroad, in such ways as he may deem expedient, to keep down the price of gold and of exchange. The Secretary of the Treasury has conferred with members of the Ways and Means and Finance Committees on this subject, but it is not yet known precisely what course he proposes to pursue.

THE THREE HUNDRED DOLLAR CLAUSE.

The probabilities decidedly are that Congress will repeal the three hundred dollar clause of the Enrollment Act. The Military Committee of the Senate are believed to be in favor of doing so, and it is not unlikely that they will attach a section to that effect to the amendatory bill introduced by Senator Wilson. The other provisions of that bill will probably be adopted in substance.

DEATH OF GEN. BUFORD.

Gen. Buford, formerly commanding a division in the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac, died in this city to-day of typhoid fever and dysentery. Gen. Buford was to have taken command of the cavalry in the Army of the Cumberland, and had left the Army of the Potomac for that purpose. He was made a Major-General before his decease.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE REBELLIOUS STATES.

The Select Committee on that part of the Message which relates to the rebellious States is made up of strong men. The radical views of the three from the Border States—Winter Davis of Maryland, Smithers of Delaware, and Blow of Missouri—can be inferred from the remarks of the last named to-night, as elsewhere reported. The uncompromising opinions of Ashley of Ohio, Fenton of New-York, and Gooch of Massachusetts are well known. The opposition are fitly represented by Allen of Illinois, Holman of Indiana and English of Connecticut.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 14, 1863.

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

A letter from Morris Island says the Rebels were working very hard on Sullivan's Island, increasing their works there and shelling Forts Gregg and Wagner, as if apprehensive of trouble from that quarter. The Rebel iron-clads occasionally showed themselves, but were always careful to avoid a fight. The Rebels are said to be very savage, and do not spare our men when they catch them. Reconnoissances are frequently made from the fleet, and much valuable information is thus obtained. Our forces are not idle, and the Rebels have quite as much as they can do to watch all our movements, which they anxiously scrutinize.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 14, 1863.

PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY.

The bill which Senator Hale introduced provides that—

Hereafter all persons within the United States of America are equal before the law, and all claims to personal service except those founded on contract, and the claim of a parent to the service of a minor child, and service rendered in pursuance of sentence for the punishment of crime, be and the same are hereby abolished—anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

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The Weekly Tribune.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16.

THE TREASURY REPORT.

We trust that no loyal American who can read at all will fail to study carefully Gov. CHASE's Report on the state of the National Finances, which we publish in full this morning. Long as it is, it contains no line that could well be spared—states no fact that is not of deep, abiding interest to our whole people. The achievements and triumphs of the financier are noiseless and bloodless—they do not dazzle the eye nor excite the imagination—and yet we hold that Secretary Chase's duties have been more arduous, have required a more sleepless energy as well as a higher order of ability, than those of any other functionary, civil or military, who has been called to aid the President in the great work of suppressing the Slaveholders' Rebellion. To wield and impel great armies with skill and success is a rare and difficult art; to provide the means of arming, paying, and subsisting them throughout a long and terrible war, requires a still rarer genius. Had all the really competent financiers in the country been required to assume the conduct of our wasted Finances, our empty Treasury, when Gov. Chase did, with the moral certainty before them of a Civil War just at hand, in which the National Expenditures would range from Four to Eight Hundred Millions per annum for at least three years ensuing, we are confident that nineteen of every twenty of them would have shrunk back appalled and affrighted, as though required to perform moral impossibilities and bear up for years against a daily pressure of urgent necessities which must tax to the utmost every faculty and every power of endurance. Yet Gov. Chase, though utterly untrained to Finance, has met the requirements of his most trying position without dismay, without faltering, and with eminent and unfailing success. Had our Generals in the field evinced in the average equal courage, capacity, and sleepless devotion, the Rebellion would have long since been crushed, and the increase of our Public Debt arrested. Their deficiencies and failures have compelled him to borrow enormous sums on the heel of staggering defeats, and when the Republic seemed tottering to its fall. The traitor Cobb had deliberately and devilishly made utter shipwreck of the National Credit just before he stole out of the Treasury to take his place in the armies of the Rebellion. Gov. Chase succeeded to a heritage of failing resources and clamorous, ever-expanding necessities, just when the bankruptcy of our Government had been proclaimed on every exchange, and when capitalists who invest in the British funds at less than four per cent interest had refused to invest in ours at twelve; and now, after borrowing and obtaining credit for some Twelve Hundred Millions of Dollars within less than three years, he remains, as he began and has continued, master of the situation, touching the springs of National Credit with a rod of resistless power, and ordering Sixty to Eighty Millions per month from sources previously unsuspected, as if he possessed the lamp of Aladdin. His task, though still arduous, has become relatively easy; but when we consider what calls were made upon him on the back of Bull Run, of McClellan's Peninsular failure, of Buell's hasty retreat across the whole breadth of Tennessee and of Kentucky, of Burnside's bloody repulse at Fredericksburg, of Hooker's collapse at Chancellorsville, and in the face of Lee's triumphant invasion of Pennsylvania, we shall realize that, among the many who have done nobly, his task has been more exacting than that of his colaborers whose sleep, after days and nights of peril and privation, was sweetened by dreams of martial glory, and whose presence among their compatriots was uniformly greeted by thundering cheers.

We shall owe, according to Mr. Chase's calculations, and allowing the War to proceed on the present gigantic scale up to that time, less than Seventeen Hundred Millions on the 1st of next July,—before which date, we strongly hope, the Rebellion will have been crushed. Let us swell the amount to Two Thousand Millions, so as to cover every contingency. It will, even then, be less than *one-tenth* of the aggregate value of the private property in the country. *Our* estimate, based on the facts embodied in the Census of 1860, makes that aggregate *Thirty Thousand* Millions of Dollars, whereof the Debt aforesaid would be *one-fifteenth*. On this Debt, we shall be required to pay about One Hundred Millions per annum as interest, which is less than *one-twentieth* of the annual product of our National Industry. Compare these facts with the assertions of Gov. Seymour and other Copperheads in our late political canvass, and mark the difference! A single tax of fifty cents per gallon on the Wines and Distilled Liquors consumed by our people would pay half of this interest, and the country be no whit the poorer for it.

Gov. Chase is disappointed that the Internal Revenue or Direct Taxes yielded less than Forty Millions during the fiscal year which closed with last June. We think that the explanation of the deficiency is to be found in the tardiness or dishonesty wherewith too many made returns of their Income and other taxes. In fact, the Treasury Report itself shows that the income from this source during the first quarter of the present fiscal year—that ending with September last—was over Seventeen Millions and a Half, or at the rate of Seventy Millions per annum. Our people had not fairly acquired the habit of paying Internal Taxes during the last fiscal year, and we apprehend that large quantities of Liquors, Tobacco and other manufactures, contrived to dodge the Excise altogether. At all events, vast amounts had been produced before, and were on hand when the Act took effect; and these were not taxed by it, as they should have been. We shall improve upon this year by year, until there will ultimately be no stocks on hand that were produced before the impost was laid, and no unprincipled cunning subtle enough to evade the tax-gatherer. Meantime, we trust the additions called for by Secretary Chase will be promptly voted.

—Our space for to-day is exhausted, but we shall probably have more to say of this lucid and admirable Report.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEES.

That Messrs. Stevens, Dawes, and Washburne of Ill. should be retained in the Chairmanships of the important Committees presided over by them respectively in the last Congress, was a matter of course; and the advancement of Mr. Rice of Mass. from the second to the first place on the Naval Committee (vice Sedgwick of N. Y., not returned) was dictated not more by inherent fitness than by rule. Mr. Alley of Mass. succeeds to the Chairmanship of the Post-Office Committee by the same rule. Of the Chairmanship of the Military Committee, there are understood to have been several expectants; and the choice naturally fell on Mr. Schenck, as a distinguished member of several former Congresses as well as a Major-General of Volunteers, who has just resigned the charge of an important Department to take his seat in the House. Mr. H. Winter Davis, as an eminent member of several preceding Houses, and of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, is happily placed at the head of that Committee in this House. We are glad to see so early and earnest a champion of Free Homesteads as Mr. Julian of Ind. at the head of the Committee on Public Lands. His position is a guaranty that the principle of Free Homes for the landless from the Public Domain will neither be abandoned nor undermined during the next two years.

Of the nine Members composing the Judiciary Committee of the last House, none were reëlected. Mr. Pendleton of Ohio (Dem.) has been transferred to the Ways and Means. The selection of Mr. Wilson of Iowa for Chairman of this important Committee was, we think, not generally anticipated; but we presume it judicious. This Committee is very strongly constituted, as it should be; for some of the gravest questions ever demanding the action of a legislative body are likely to challenge its attention. It is quite possible that this Committee and that on Elections may be called to bear weightier responsibilities during this session than even the usually all-absorbing Ways and Means.

Of the Democratic members from our State, Mr. Stebbins is on the Ways and Means, Mr. Odell (of Brooklyn) is on the War, and Mr. Griswold (of Troy) on the Navy. We presume they were placed in these most responsible positions because they were believed to be not merely capable and worthy, but thoroughly loyal and in favor of putting down the Rebellion. At all events, such are the reasons which dictate our hearty approval of the choice. Messrs. Ganson (of Buffalo), Kernan (Utica), and Ward (City), are on the Committees on Elections, Judiciary and Commerce respectively. Mr. Brooks is on the Post-Office, Mr. Fernando Wood on Public Lands, and Mr. Steele on the District of Columbia.

The selection of Mr. Hulburd of St. Lawrence—a new member, but a very strong one—for Chairman of the Committee on Public Expenditures, with such associates as Broomall of Pa., Rollins of N. H., and Julian of Indiana, justifies the hope that this Committee is to take that rank in the present Congress to which it is intrinsically entitled. We shall confidently expect from it a pretty thorough scrutiny of our outgoes, with an earnest desire to find places where the pruning-knife can be properly and resolutely applied.

Mr. Jenckes of R. I., though a new member, is likewise placed at the head of an important Committee—that on Patents. There is no member, new or old, in the House, who could bring to that post a riper and fuller knowledge of the whole subject of Patents, whether in its legal or its practical aspects.

The formation of a Committee on Mileage with a Democratic Chairman, backed by a Democratic majority, we interpret as implying that no effort, even, is to be made in this Congress to correct the flagrant abuses of the present Mileage system. It is well to be thus shielded from delusive expectations.

On the whole, we think the cast of the House Committees, though not absolutely perfect, a judicious and strong one, and trust it will be found conducive to an energetic and prompt dispatch of business.

HALLECK.

Henry Wager Halleck is a gentleman who is no favorite with us, any more than we are with him. We reckon him about the only Major-General ever in command in the West who would have waited three weeks before Corinth, and then allowed Beauregard, with hardly half the force immediately opposed to him, to march leisurely away, bag and baggage, unhurried and unharmed. General Halleck is naturally a Hunker Democrat of the most case-hardened Pro-Slavery type, and actually knew no better, even since he became General-in-Chief, than to speak of our great struggle, as "a —— *Tribune*, Abolition War!" We never favored his elevation to his present post; we have often criticised his official acts; and we shall, if the Rebels are not cleaned out of the region west of the Mississippi before May, hold him responsible for the failure. So much by way of clearing ourselves from any possible imputation or suspicion of partisanship for Gen. Halleck.

And now we ask our Copperhead cotemporaries—*The World* especially—to reconcile with honesty, or even decency, their silence with regard to his refutation of the criminations and charges they have been heaping upon Gen. Halleck, either alone or in connection with the President and the Secretary of War, with respect to our chief Military failures of the last year and more! Consider the accusations to which they have been subjected with respect to Gen. Burnside's bloody repulse at Fredericksburg, the delay of the pontoon train, the failure to cross at the fords above and seize the hights opposite before the Rebels did, &c., &c., in the light of the facts embodied in Gen. Hallack's recent report. Then recall the abuse heaped upon the General-in-Chief and his official superiors for pushing on Rosecrans to fight Bragg south of Chattanooga with inadequate forces and in defiance of our General's protests—the failure to order Burnside to support Rosecrans, &c., &c. Here is almost a year of constant and fiery calumny rained down upon Gen. Halleck's head—in order to reach the President—upon naked assumptions which are now shown to be utterly baseless and erroneous. But do the calumniators recant? Do they express any regret for their gross, flagrant, cruel misrepresentations? On the contrary, they will persevere in them to the end of the chapter. Let a battle be fought any where, a fort or city taken or lost, and the Copperhead organs will assert in chorus that the National triumph, if triumph there were, was won in spite and defiance of the authorities at Washington; if a defeat, it was caused, constrained, compelled, by orders from or mismanagement at Washington. They do not wait to ascertain—they do not care to inquire into—the facts; they charge and assert whatever will serve their end of weakening the Government; and, if detected in one calumny, they hurry on to another, and another.

Now, we do not believe nor maintain that everything has been well done at Washington—we know there have been sad mistakes and shortcomings there, many of which we have from time to time exposed and reprehended. We much doubt, however, that the blunders and errors on our side have been greater than those committed on the part of the Rebels; and we think our authorities have profited more by their own mistakes, and been more ready to acknowledge and correct them, than have the chiefs of the Rebellion. But we insist that no journal of even skin-deep loyalty can decently assume without evidence that our authorities are always wrong, always blind, always blundering, always in fault. The facts are conspicuously otherwise, as Gen. Halleck's Report abundantly, conspicuously demonstrates; and to ignore and contravene those facts is consistent neither with patriotism nor honesty.

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

Gen. Hitchcock has written another letter on the exchange of prisoners, somewhat more fully exhibiting the negotiations that actually went on between Col. Ludlow and Mr. Ould in reference to the Vicksburg prisoners and the colored troops. It now appears that so long ago as July 22, Col. Ludlow wrote to the Rebel agent that his proposed declaration of exchange of the Vicksburg prisoners was in violation of the cartel. The statement is explicit and unanswerable; and in no letters that have seen the light does Mr. Ould attempt to answer it. The cartel provided for exchanges of equal rank until such were exhausted; and not until they were exhausted could the system of equivalents be resorted to. In other words, so long as we held a greater number of officers as prisoners than the Rebels held, they could not free theirs from parole except by first liberating ours. Yet Mr. Ould committed precisely this outrage; declaring the Rebel officers on parole exchanged, offsetting against them a certain number of privates, and retaining in prison a large number of our officers who were entitled to their release.

Again: Col. Ludlow reminds Mr. Ould that both the proclamation of Jefferson Davis concerning our captured officers, and the acts of the Rebel Congress, touching the same subject, were in direct violation of the cartel, and that since the proclamation and acts referred to, exchanges of officers under the cartel had ceased, and that exchanges had been made, if at all, only by special agreement in each case. It was, therefore, clearly impossible for Mr. Ould in any case to make a valid *ex parte* declaration of exchange. Valid exchanges were possible only by special agreement, and the Rebel paroles released by Mr. Ould remained not less binding than before.

Col. Ludlow writes further to Mr. Ould that he has again and again urged him to return to the cartel, but in vain. He charges him with retaining in close confinement large numbers of our officers, for whom a demand had been made and equivalents tendered. He notifies the Rebel agent that he declines to unite in his proposed declaration of exchange of the Vicksburg officers, and that if recaptured they will be dealt with as violators of their parole. And finally, he declares to Mr. Ould that if he is authorized to deliver our officers now held in close confinement and to return to the cartel in exchanges of all officers and men, the whole business can be arranged without trouble.

But to these charges and offers Mr. Ould makes no reply. He cannot refute the one and will not accept the other. In order to justify himself before the world he publishes a part only of the correspondence, and suppresses the foregoing letter. In spite of Col. Ludlow's warning, he releases the Vicksburg prisoners and puts them into the field. He refuses to release our officers, and they remain in prison, part of them still under the threat of the Rebel leader and his mock legislature that they shall be hanged by State authorities. In that condition of affairs the Government invited by the Rebel authorities to resume exchanges, to recognize as valid all previous violations of the cartel, to give up 40,000 Rebel prisoners to be put immediately into the field in exchange for 13,000 of ours, and to leave our colored troops and their officers to be butchered at the will of their inhuman captors. The invitation has been declined.

LOUISIANA.

By our last advices from New-Orleans we learn that a bona fide effort is about to be made to reorganize the State Government of Louisiana upon a loyal Union basis. The Free State Committee, under authority from Gov. Shepley, have called for a thorough enrollment of all the loyal voters in the State, preparatory to an election for delegates to a State Convention. This election will probably be held on the 25th of January. The business of the delegates elected will be to frame a Constitution. As soon as the enrollment has demonstrated that there are loyal men enough in the State to warrant such a step, Governor Shepley will issue his warrant for the election. There seems to be no doubt that the result will be such as to restore Louisiana to that position among her sister States, of which she was defrauded by the juggling of the Secession election in 1861. It is now generally admitted that the vote by which it is pretended she seceded was largely in favor of remaining in the Union; and for this reason: Moore, Slidell, Soulé, Benjamin & Co., never would publish the returns.

Under the Amnesty Proclamation, if one tenth of the number of voters who cast their suffrages at the general election in 1860 now prove loyal, the State may be restored to all the rights and privileges, save with respect to slaves, which she enjoyed prior to the Rebellion, and the Government of the United States will maintain and defend her in their possession. The laboring men of the country parishes, who heretofore were dominated by the slaveholding aristocracy, at least such of them as have escaped the fierce conscription of the Confederacy, will now have an opportunity to assert their independence. Under despotic slave rule these "poor whites" were kept in ignorance and poverty, and none have reaped more bitter fruits from the Rebellion than they. They may now so shape the government of their State as to establish it on the true democratic basis of the greatest good to the greatest number.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

Internal Revenue.

SYNOPSIS OF COMMISSIONER LEWIS'S REPORT.

The main features of our policy of taxation may be regarded as settled, but in particulars the laws require to be amended. Even in their present shape, it is believed they will produce a much larger revenue than indicated by present receipts. But the general policy of change requires to be in favor of an increased revenue. Some claims for relief are nevertheless entitled to be heard. Among them, the dividend tax—so called—on mutual life-insurance companies should be repealed, those dividends not being in the nature of income from capital, nor capable of being equitably assessed. As partial compensation, the stamp duty on policies of life-insurance, now very low, may be justly increased to fifty cents on each $1,000 of insurance. Stock life-insurance companies should be taxed like other companies in which stock is invested for the sake of revenue.

The tax on distilled spirits should be increased from 20 to not less than 60 cents per gallon. In place of the present tax on malt liquors, it is recommended to tax the malt itself, now exempt, 30 cents a bushel, or if not, to increase the malt liquor tax to $1 50 per barrel. On petroleum oil a tax should be laid in its crude state, and the drawback on the export of illuminating oil be repealed. The tax on tobacco is too light. England taxes $77 72 on every hundred pounds of unmanufactured tobacco; $154 64 on snuff, and $232 13 on manufactured tobacco; with the intent to raise revenue on the raw material and secure the profits of its manufacture to British subjects. Her average revenue from it for several years before 1861 was more than $27,000,000. In France tobacco is a Government monopoly. Almost no manufactured tobacco is imported, but we exported thither in 1862, 32,305,240 pounds, on which the net profits to the French Government of manufacture and sale were $13,729,548. There is, therefore, no reason why we should furnish the raw product to foreign nations at a cheap rate for their benefit. Our production has diminished in consequence of the Rebellion, while the foreign demand is increasing. It is proposed that tobacco be taxed in the leaf in the hands of the producer and no drawback allowed on its exportation in that shape. If any drawback is allowed it should be only on the manufactured article. The tax on tobacco in the leaf with all the stems on should be 20 cents a pound. From 5 to 10 or 12 cents additional should be levied on the manufactured article, on which a drawback might be allowed of from 10 to 15 cents. On native wines, a duty of 10 cents a gallon may be reasonably imposed.

The estimated revenue from internal duties was $150,000,000. Actual receipts from September 1, 1862 to September 1, 1863, were $47,469,473 03. The drawbacks to June 30 were $676,683 73; to Sept. 1, $503,066 36. But considerable amounts were in hands of collectors, and in transitu; and it is safe to say the total product to Sept. 1 will amount to $65,000,000. Without alteration of the law, the amount would probably be $10,000,000 greater next year. With the increased excise recommended, the revenue from January to December, 1864, will probably amount to $92,000,000. As more revenue will be likely to be wanted, the following additional taxes are recommended. On mineral and soda water, &c., 3 cents per dozen half-pint bottles; 4 cents per dozen pint bottles; one cent a bottle for larger size; sold otherwise, 5 per cent *ad valorem*. Schedule A, section 77, of excise law may be enlarged by including other articles of luxury, as gold watches, pianos, dogs, diamonds, &c. Cotton, now taxed ½ cent per pound may be increased to two cents. Thread [illegible] bear an *ad valorem* duty. Auction sales ¼ per cent. On slaughtered animals, as follows: On each head of horned cattle, more than eight weeks old, slaughtered for sale, a tax of thirty cents; and on calves of eight weeks old and less, a tax of five cents per head. On slaughtered swine, exceeding fifty pounds in weight, ten cents per head.

The 73d section, act of July 1, 1862, should be so amended as to include corporations manufacturing for their own use. Income-tax needs few modifications. Incomes over $5,000 and under $10,000, should be taxed four per cent; over $10,000 and less than $20,000, five per cent; over $20,000, five and a half to six per cent. Tax on foreign consuls' income may be repealed. Stamp duties may be gradually extended and enlarged. Receipts for the payment of money could be taxed one cent.

Numerous instruments in writing now exempt may justly be made to pay a stamp duty. On promissory notes, inland bills, drafts and orders, mortgages and personal bonds, the duty should be doubled, and it is recommended that the maximum of these to be required in any case be also doubled; that the stamp duties on agreements or contracts other than those specified in the schedule be ten cents; that the words "exceeding twenty dollars" be stricken from the clause in schedule B relating to bank checks, drafts or orders, and also from the first paragraph of the sixth section of the amendatory act; that the stamp duties on life, marine and inland insurance policies be doubled; that those on leases be proportioned to the rent reserved and the length of the term; that to letters of attorney to do single acts, such as enter satisfaction on a judgment or mortgage, execute a paper or document other than a conveyance, serve a notice or process to appear to a suit or action, to receive prize money or wages of labor, be assigned a moderate duty more appropriate to the nature of the service to be performed than that now provided; and that writs, summonses, and other processes for the commencement of actions before Justices of the Peace, in cases of civil jurisdiction, and writs of execution, also issued by such Justices for the seizure or sale of goods, be made subject to a small stamp duty.

Modifications in the law invalidating instruments for want of a stamp may be made. The tax on lottery tickets is so large as to be evaded; a more moderate one is therefore recommended. Tunnage receipts of railway and steamboat companies may be taxed as well as passenger receipts. All corporations making profits on dividends should be subject to duty.

The one per cent half yearly on the bank circulation should be increased to two, and the one-eighth per cent on deposits to one-fifth. Sales at brokers' boards should pay one-twentieth per cent. Modifications are suggested in the legacy duty. The license system should be extended.

All these changes, however, will not probably produce the $150,000,000, as first estimated, and it is recommended to lay a tax of two per cent additional on the general manufactures of the country. The expense of collecting the revenue has been about six and two-twenty-sevenths per cent of the receipts, which it is thought may be reduced, and some methods are suggested to that end. The annual taxes, including income taxes, should be assessed and collected in a manner similar to that provided for monthly taxes. Numerous other recommendations are made in order to economize expenses, and to increase the certainty and amount of collections.

Report of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The following is a synopsis of Mr. McCulloch's Report:

Up to the present time there have been organized under the act to provide a national currency, &c., one hundred and thirty-four banks, which are located as follows:

In Maine	2	In District of Columbia	1
In New-Hampshire	2	In Illinois	7
In Vermont	2	In Indiana	20
In Massachusetts	3	In Iowa	6
In Rhode Island	1	In Kentucky	1
In Connecticut	4	In Michigan	4
In New-York	10	In Missouri	2
In New-Jersey	1	In Ohio	38
In Pennsylvania	20	In Wisconsin	4

The national currency act, although admirable in its leading features, is not altogether symmetrical in its arrangement, nor clear, if it is even consistent in all of its provisions. I respectfully suggest, therefore, that the act be carefully revised; that those parts of it that refer to the same subject be placed in juxtaposition, and that it be relived of certain obscurities and apparent inconsistencies that render some of its provisions of difficult construction. A law of so much importance as this, which is to be interpreted by so many people, and is to be the charter of so many banking institutions, should be methodical in its arrangement, clear in language, and comprehensive and consistent in its provisions. In these respects the national currency act is somewhat defective. Sections relating to the same subject are scattered throughout the act. Words of different significance are sometimes used as if they were convertible. Many passages are ambiguous in language, if they do not contain inconsistent provisions. For example, the law requires that articles of association should be entered into, and organization certificates executed, stating for what purpose the certificates shall be made, and indicating other and different things to be provided for in the articles of association, and yet in some instances these certificates and articles seem to be referred to as if they were one and the same instrument. Section 6 makes certified copies of organization certificates legal and sufficient evidence of the existence of associations, while section 11 provides that the associations shall have succession, &c., by the name designated in their articles. The last-mentioned section, which confers banking powers upon the banks, has also a provision which bankers find it difficult to interpret. After bestowing upon the banks general powers to discount bills, notes, and other evidences of debt, it authorizes the loan of money "on real and personal security, in the manner specified in the articles of association, and for the purposes authorized by the act." This is the only power conferred by this section, the exercise of which is made dependent upon the articles of association, and it has been found difficult to give a precise meaning to the language, and to form articles that should cover and secure the power intended to be conferred.

Section 13 authorizes associations to provide in their articles of association for an increase of capital, subject to the limitations of the act; but there is no limitation in the act of the capital stock of the associations, separately or in the aggregate. The same section seems to require that the Controller shall *certify to the banks* the amount of their increased stock, instead of giving him the power to authorize the banks to increase their capitals, and to approve of the increase, upon his being furnished with evidence that the additional capital has actually been paid in.

Section 15 provides that United States bonds to the amount of one-third of the paid in capital of an association shall be deposited with the Treasurer, and a fair construction of the act has seemed to me to warrant the decision that the banks should not only deposit with the Treasurer, but that they should keep with him constantly, this proportion of bonds; while section 30 provides that the Controller may (shall) direct the return of any such bonds to the association that transferred the same, upon the surrender to him and the cancellation of a proportionable amount of its circulating notes, &c. This provision, construed by itself, might nullify the requirements of the 15th section, even if it did not defeat the most important object of the act.

Section 37, literally construed, might prevent the National banks from discounting on the security of the stocks of other corporations, many of which stocks are regarded by bankers as among the most desirable collaterals; while the object of the restrictions in this section undoubtedly was, merely to prevent banks from discounting upon the security of their own stocks, and from engaging in stock speculations. I have decided that under section 41, three-fifths of the twenty-five per cent of lawful money required to be kept on hand by the National bank, might be kept in similar associations in the cities named, *but in no others*. The ninth article of the 45th section is supposed, however, by many, to indicate that no such restriction in regard to the character of the depositary was intended.

An absolutely strict construction of another part of section 41 would seem to deny to banks in the cities named the privileges granted to those in other places, but I have thought and decided that a more liberal construction should be given to it, because it was not reasonable to suppose it to have been the intention of Congress to withhold from banks in Chicago privileges granted to banks in Hartford, New-Haven, &c.

These, and others like them, may be regarded as minor defects, and such as do not materially affect the proper working of the system, but they serve to embarrass the bankers, and may cause improper decisions on the part of the Controller. The law would be greatly improved if it were relieved of them.

I suggest, also, that section 47 be struck out entirely. While it is true that large loans to a single individual or firm should, as a general thing, be avoided, there may be, and frequently are, exceptional cases in which such loans are both necessary and judicious. I think, therefore, that this is a matter that should be left to the managers of the banks, and that it can be safely intrusted to them.

I suggest, also, that section 39 be so amended that the affairs of the National Banks may be managed by not more than thirteen directors instead of nine, and that only two-thirds of the directors be required to be residents of the State in which the banks are respectively located. I can conceive of no valid reason why the stockholders of a National Bank should be prohibited from electing more than nine directors. It is not likely that the stockholders of many banks will be inclined to do so; but some State banks have more than nine directors, and if they should be converted into National Banks, and the stockholders thereof should desire to retain their present number, or if any new associations should prefer a larger number than nine, they should have the privilege of doing it.

The requirement that all the directors of a bank should be residents of the State in which it is located, may, in some instances, prevent stockholders from availing themselves of the services of men whom it may be desirable to have in the direction. Many persons carrying on business in our large cities reside in neighboring States. Should they, therefore, be disqualified from being directors of the city banks? The object for which this resolution was inserted in the act will doubtless be secured by requiring two thirds of the board to be residents of the State in which an association is organized.

Instead of the liability of the stockholders, many of whom have little voice in the management of their banks, I would suggest that section 12 be so amended [illegible] facie fraudulent, and that the directors [illegible] under whose administration such insolvency shall occur, be made personally liable for the debts of the bank, and be punished criminally, unless it shall appear, upon investigation, that its affairs were honestly administered. The individual liability provision, if continued, will prevent, as it is now doing, many prudent men and men of wealth from becoming shareholders in National banks, and consequently hinder a proper and desirable distribution of their stock, and will not protect creditors to the same extent as would be done by the proposed liability of the managers.

I also suggest that section 24 be so amended that the publication by an association of its quarterly reports, where there is no newspaper in the place where the association is located, be made in the nearest paper [illegible]

[illegible]

Henry S. Foote's Opinion of Jeff. Davis—His Speech in the Rebel Senate [illegible]

[illegible]

Another Order from Gen. Butler.

[illegible]

FROM GEN. BURNSIDE'S ARMY.

The Siege of Knoxville—A Desperate Assault and a Bloody Repulse.

From Our Special Correspondent.

KNOXVILLE, Nov. 28, 1863.

The ridge of hills occupied by the enemy is known as Armstrong's hills. When it was known that the enemy had taken possession of this position, Col. Cameron moved out of his works and took up a position in their front. He endeavored to carry the hills, but finding the enemy too strongly posted, after meeting with slight loss abandoned the attempt, falling back to his advanced position. Our skirmishers continued to be actively engaged from that time until the following day, Thursday. About 2 o'clock p. m., the enemy made his appearance in force, making a desperate charge simultaneously on our center and right and left flanks. Col. C. advanced the 24th Kentucky under command of Col. Hurt to support skirmishers, and almost immediately afterward the 103d Ohio and 65th Illinois. The charge of the enemy was desperate, but all the fury of the Rebels was more than checkmated by the coolness and determined valor of our troops, who would not yield an inch of ground. The engagement lasted about an hour and a half. The two opposing lines, a good part of the time, were within fifty yards of each other. At the end of that time the enemy began to show symptoms of wavering, and our line immediately advanced and charged them. Their line broke in disorder. We continued to advance as far as it was deemed prudent. We held the field; captured about 20 prisoners; met with a loss of over 60 killed and wounded, and inflicted a loss on the enemy at least three times that of our own. The troops of the enemy were those of Hood's old division, and the contest, in point of numbers, was a most unequal one. Gen. Burnside, on the evening of the same day, highly complimented Col. Cameron and his officers and men, for the achievements of the day. Col. Cameron mentions with particular encomium Col. J. S. Hurt of the 24th Kentucky for valuable assistance on the field. B. S.

From Our Special Correspondent.

KNOXVILLE, Nov. 29, 1863.

Throughout yesterday the enemy's skirmishers, after two days comparative quiet, began to press our lines on the north and north-west fronts with unusual vigor, giving indications that they were preparing for the long-looked-for assault upon our works. They had already approached so near by establishing one line after another of rifle-pits as to partially command our batteries, and to render it very unsafe to move out of or into our own rifle-pits without the greatest circumspection. Several officers and men had been picked off. They had completed a battery on the north-west front, and had also taken possession of one of the most commanding hills on the south side of the Holston, from which they could reach Roemer's battery, on College Hill, by a plunging fire, and also enfilade our guns in Fort Sanders. In fact they could reach almost any part of the town. Affairs were getting critical. Our batteries, coöperating with the pickets, did their best to dislodge the enemy's sharpshooters from their advanced line, in vain. Burrowing in holes entirely out of reach of cannon or musket shot, they were fast becoming masters of the situation. Toward evening—notwithstanding the rainy weather—it was apparent that the enemy were getting ready to strike. A vigilant watch was kept upon every movement—not only to guard against attack from the direction where the enemy was evidently massing his troops, but also to guard against a surprise upon other parts of our extended lines. During the afternoon of Saturday quite a brisk cannonading was kept up on his rifle-pits, and the enemy's batteries were also shelled, but they remained comparatively quiet, only firing an occasional gun from the batteries on each side of our main position. About 10 o'clock p. m. the pickets in the right front of Gen. Ferrero's position reported the enemy advancing in line, and Benjamin and Buckley opened their batteries upon them with shell and grape at short range. Our men in the rifle-pits also did their share of work. It seems it was the enemy's intention to make a night attack, but the vigor of our cannonade prevented them from forming. Throughout the night there was almost constant firing kept up. At eleven o'clock p. m., General Burnside rode to the front, and remained for an hour, during which time the enemy had gained no substantial advantage. After he had returned, however, Gen. Ferrero reported to headquarters that his whole line of pickets on the north-west front had been driven in as far as to the railroad track. Satisfied that the enemy intended to attack, Gen. Burnside now issued orders along the line for every man to be ready. Col. Riley, commanding a reserve, was notified to hold his force in readiness to move at a moment's notice. Col. Chapin's brigade was ordered to move to the left to reinforce Gen. Ferrero.

From this time until daylight, there was the constant flash of guns, mingled with the rattle and crash of bursting shells in and around Fort Sanders. There was little sleeping either among the citizens, officers or soldiers. Families rose from their brief hour's repose, and took to the cellars to escape the general storm which seemed impending over them. Members of the staff or orderlies rode rapidly to and fro through the resounding streets, receiving and delivering messages from the front. Few others were to be seen abroad. The morning was raw and cold. Daylight revealed to Gen. Ferrero and his men the enemy's line drawn up at the foot of the long slope in front, but partially concealed by the woods skirting the ravine, and by the felled trees and undergrowth. About 6½ o'clock a. m., the enemy in full force charged up hill, in the very face of the batteries of Fort Sanders, which met them with deadly discharges of grape and canister. The 79th New-York, 29th Massachusetts, and 2d Michigan, held that portion of the rifle pits immediately in front of the charge, and delivered a steady and destructive fire into the enemy's advancing columns. On they came, over stumps, felled trees, and every impediment, their ranks swept by Benjamin's and Buckley's guns, and mowed from the rifle pits. The charge was led by Col. Ruff of a Georgia regiment, who, with Col. Kennon McElroy of the 13th Mississippi, fell pierced by rifle balls, or torn by deadly grape, before they had led their men half way up the rugged slope. Within ten feet of the foot of the parapet, and running entirely around that part of the fort where the charge was made, was a perpendicular ditch ten feet in depth, into which the charging column rushed pell-mell before they discovered the trap. Here the wounded, the dead, and the living, in one bloody, writhing mass, fell or jumped upon each other until the ditch was nearly full. Never was there a charge more desperate, or one led by braver men. Clambering up the steep *glacis* of the fort, by digging footholds with their bayonets, a number gained the parapet. The color-bearer of the 13th Mississippi planted his standard upon the fort. The flag and its brave bearer, however, were instantly captured. Another soldier crawled through the embrazure of one of Benjamin's guns, clapped his hands upon the piece, and demanded its surrender! He was instantly shot and fell back into the ditch. Every one who gained the parapet was immediately disarmed, and made prisoner. Meantime those in the ditch found they could neither get out or do anything else, and then a wild outcry arose from the ditch. It was a cry for quarter, mingled with the wail of the wounded and dying. The 100th Pennsylvania, marching out of the south sally port, came round so as to enfilade the ditch, and demanded a surrender, which was promptly made, and the prisoners, to the number of about 150, were taken into the fort, where they were disarmed and sent to headquarters. Of the whole force making the charge a large number who found it impossible to escape from under our guns, fell behind stumps and felled trees, where they remained until the firing slackened. At this point a brave but eccentric German belonging to the 112th Illinois, went out and invited the prostrate Rebels to come in. "Now is yer time, boys—de firing has stopped—come right into de fort—nobody will hurt you." An officer lying among his men called him hard names, and threatened to shoot him if he didn't let his men alone; but Jake surrounded about fifty and drove them into the fort. Jake said "if he had only had van udder man on de tudder side, he could have drove in a goot many more of dem." No single regiment retired in order. They went back straggling in broken squads, or crawled away under cover of stumps and logs from the fire of the rifle-pits and guns.

The prisoners captured here, and at other points during the morning, represent eight different regiments. Three battle flags were taken. One bearing the name of "Col. W. D. Holden, 17th Missouri regiment;" another marked simply "16th Regiment," belonged to Georgia; and the third, without inscription, was sent to headquarters with the following memorandum attached:

"Captured by Sergeant Judd, Co. K, 79th N. Y. V., on the parapet of the fort. E. FERRERO."

The prisoners were brought to headquarters and afterward provided for and placed under guard.

A FLAG OF TRUCE.

Colonel Loring having reported that a large number of wounded and dying were lying upon the field, and in the trenches, General Burnside immediately directed a flag of truce to be sent to the enemy's lines, proposing to General Longstreet a cessation of hostilities until 5 o'clock p. m., to enable him to recover his wounded, or us to receive them in our hospitals; also for the removal and burial of the dead. General Potter sent an officer of his staff (with an escort) bearing the following letter:

HEADQUARTERS 9TH ARMY CORPS, KNOXVILLE, E. T., November 29, 1863.

Maj.-Gen. McLaws, or other officer commanding Confederate forces on Kingston Road.

GENERAL: Under instructions from Maj.-Gen. Burnside, commanding the Army of the Ohio, I address you this communication, for the purpose of offering a cessation of hostilities for sufficient time to arrange for the removal of your wounded lying in front of my lines. Lieut.-Col. Bowen, A. A. G., the bearer of this communication, is authorized to make such arrangements for this purpose as may be agreed upon.

Your obedient servant, ROBERT B. POTTER, Brigadier-General Commanding.

The messenger was met at the lines by Confederate officers, and the message conveyed to the Rebel headquarters, a mile in the rear. General Longstreet promptly acceded to the humane suggestions, and there was

PEACE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

Doctor Cullen, Medical Director of General Longstreet's Corps, assisted by Col. Fairfax, the General's private Secretary, and Dr. Barksdale, Medical Inspector, were on the field to receive the wounded, and remove the dead. Dr. Wilder, Medical Director of the 9th Army Corps, assisted by Drs. Bonnie and Ross, on our side, coöperated in the humane work. Our ambulances being first on the field, the Confederate wounded were nearly all taken off and conveyed to the Main-street hospital, where their wounds were carefully dressed, and afterward they were reconveyed to the enemy's hospitals within their lines in our own ambulances.

These duties occupying more time than was anticipated, it became apparent toward evening that the truce would expire before its object was fully accomplished, and, by mutual agreement, the truce was extended to 7 o'clock p. m. By this time all the enemy's wounded had been delivered and all our own received within our lines; Major Boyington among them. The statement about his being in his brother's care was incorrect. His brother is dead. During the five or six hours occupied in this work our own and the Rebel surgeons mingled socially, and some of our own and the Confederate officers conversed freely upon various topics, abstaining, however, from any remarks or hints which would convey any information of our affairs.

In a somewhat lengthy conversation with one of the Rebel Brigadier-Generals, your correspondent heard some bitter, and, as he pronounced them, unfounded complaints against our War Department and the President, for failing to execute in good faith the cartel for exchange of prisoners. This officer thought the balance of prisoners would soon be in their hands, when affairs would be changed. I asked him playfully what they proposed to do with all the prisoners when they took Knoxville; they certainly would not send us all to Richmond, in the present crowded state of that place. The General replied that we should be sent to North Carolina. A Union officer inquired how soon they would begin to move us, at which point the laugh came in, and terminated the conversation on that subject. This General is a native of New-York, and a graduate of West Point, but manifested the most rampant hatred of all his old associates, and even his family relations. He would "sooner go and live under the Czar of Russia than return to the old Union."

APPEARANCE OF THE BATTLE-FIELD.

I have been over many of the chief battle-fields of the war, but have never witnessed anything more shocking than the field and ditch in front of Fort Sanders. Thirty-six dead were removed from the ditch, and a large number of wounded, where they had lain piled together with the dead and dying, all half immersed in water, or covered with mud. Hats, clothing, guns, cartridge-boxes, broken muskets, and fragments of all kinds covered with the blood of the slain were everywhere. Scattered all over the field in front of the fort where they fell, were the dead in every form of mutilation, lying in pools of their own blood. But the picture is too horrible to dwell upon. There were delivered 98 dead to the Confederate Commissioners from within our own lines. They were removed a distance of 200 yards from the parapet of the fort and buried in trenches.

Dr. Cullen, Confederate surgeon, estimated their loss at 450 to 500, but it must exceed that number by at least two hundred. Our own loss, during the attack on the fort, was very light, in killed and wounded. The Rebel forces charging were under the direction of Generals Humphrey and Bryant. The enemy lost no general officers.

Later I learn that our loss was 18 wounded and 4 killed. I will send a list by next conveyance.

SKIRMISHING ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

During the forenoon there was some lively skirmishing in front of General Shackleford, on the south side. Our pickets were driven in, and afterward they re-took their position. Our loss on that side was about forty wounded and six killed.

THE ENEMY'S COMMUNICATIONS CUT.

We have learned from prisoners taken, and by other means, that Longstreet's communication with Bragg was destroyed several days ago—that he has really been cut off since Tuesday last. A courier from the Gap brought the first decisive and really good news yesterday from Gen. Grant. It has produced a great change in the feeling of the whole command, although we had several days since come to the conclusion that our success, under God, must depend upon our own right arms. A little assistance from the outside wouldn't come amiss, but we can "hold on" some time yet.

MONDAY, Nov. 30.

The night passed with only a moderate amount of picket firing, and morning brings no change in the substantial position of the respective lines. The day is clear and very cold, the roads and standing water being frozen hard. The mountains of the Cumberland and also of North Carolina are covered with snow, but there is no material suffering from these causes. There is to-day a cheerful state of feeling pervading all Union minds. The Secesh part of the citizens are evidently discouraged at the prospect of any speedy deliverance. Provisions hold out remarkably. The animals, however, must be suffering considerably for forage. On their account, if not on that of the soldiers, it would be desirable to have our circle for foraging *slightly* enlarged. But don't let our friends at home feel too much anxiety on our account, nor the operators in Wall street pay too high a premium for gold. We haven't yet "gone up," and don't believe there is any particular prospect of that significant elevation at present. B. S.

I append a partial list of wounded in the assault:

KILLED.

J. R. W. Garretson, A, 100 Pa. V. Corp. J. Sprowle, H, 48th Pa. V.
A. Templeton, A, 100 Pa. V. F. Porter, G, 35th Mass.

WOUNDED.

C. McConnell, E, 100 Pa. V. 2d Lt. H. Jackson, G, flesh wound.
Sgt. J. Kennedy, A, severe.
F. L. Croker, G, rt. cheek. J. Heiser, I, rt. ear.
B. J. Keller, B, 51st Pa. V., rt. leg. W. Phipps, F, 21st Mass., rt. finger.
—Underwood, A, slight. Lt. I. Cummings, D, left thigh.
Sergt. Sam. Hess, F, 35th Mass.

KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Wm. Hindsey, I, 35th Mass. H. Kibler, G, 50th Pa. V.
E. Patterson, K, 51st Pa. V. J. Birney, B, 50th Pa. V.
F. A. Porter, G, 35th Mo. E. Fiels, B, 50th Pa. V.
W. Dendy, H, 51st Pa. V. Sgt. J. Hess, F, 50th Pa. V.
I. Frindt, A., 50th Pa. V.

WOUNDED—Nov. 23.

R. Bailey, I, 21st Mo. Sgt. A. Wetherby, I, 21st Mo.
Adjt. E. R. Lewis, I, 21st Mo. F. Fairbank, I, 21st Mo.

Congratulatory Order—Good News from Chattanooga—Elation of the Army Thereat—No Further Demonstration by the Enemy—Tribute to Gen. Ferrero.

From Our Special Correspondent.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Dec. 1, 1863.

Inclosed is Gen Burnside's congratulatory order which was first read this morning to Col. Chapin's Brigade. It was received with rousing cheers from the troops, and will be read throughout the lines. The news from Chattanooga and other points below received this morning by couriers who have got through from the Gap is of the most cheering character, and has greatly elated the noble men whose brave hearts and strong arms have thus far held the enemy at bay, and made our victory complete.

The enemy has made no further attempt upon our works since his disastrous repulse of Sunday morning. Sunday has always been an unlucky day to commence a fight on—at least for the attacking party. Last night the Rebels made a slight advance with their rifle pits in Gen. Ferrero's front. Their efforts are regarded as feints intended to cover a retreat, though no preparations for defense are intermitted. Nothing can exceed the enthusiasm of the troops after seventeen days' siege, and the most unintermitted and severe labor in completing the defenses. The six hours of truce on Sunday was the first rest they have had, day or night, since the siege began.

Generals Munson and Haskell have ordered all their men to be in the ranks at noon, to hear the congratulatory order, and to give it a fitting reception, for the purpose of letting the enemy know we are at our post, cheerful, and ready to meet them.

The patient, persistent and courageous bearing of Gen. Ferrero, who has had so important a part to act in repelling the enemy from first to last, has secured the admiration of every one. The value of the services he and his brave officers and men have conferred on the country during the trying times through which we have thus far passed, will certainly meet with a just appreciation and prompt reward at the hands of the people.

Everything is quiet along the lines this morning, but the weather is as cold as the first day of Winter ought to be, even in a more northern latitude. Ice and snow are everywhere.

Among the officers of this army deserving of promotion I cannot forbear to mention the name of Capt Reuben C. Kise, Assistant Adjutant-General of the 23d Army Corps. Capt. Kise has been in the service, as an officer of the Adjutant-General's Department, since the very commencement of the present war, and has rendered invaluable service to the country both in the office and on the field. In several engagements in which he has participated he has distinguished himself for coolness and bravery, for which he has been complimented in orders and official reports of his commanding Generals. None doubt the abilities of Capt. Kise, and all accord to him the meed of confidence and merit. His application for appointment as Major and Assistant Adjutant-General of Volunteers has been forwarded to the Secretary of War, accompanied by strong letters of recommendation from influential army officials, and favorably indorsed by Major-Gen. Burnside. I earnestly hope that the case of Capt. Kise may be favorably considered at Washington, and that we may soon hear of his promotion, believing that thereby the best interests of the service would likewise be promoted. B. S.

GEN. BURNSIDE'S CONGRATULATORY ORDER.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE OHIO, IN THE FIELD, Nov. 30, 1863.

GENERAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 33.—The brilliant events of the 29th inst., so successful to our arms, seem to present a fitting occasion for the commanding General to thank this army for their conduct through the severe experiences of the past seventeen days, to assure them of the important bearing it has had on the campaign in the West, and to give them the news of the great victory gained by Gen. Grant, toward which their fortitude and their bravery have in a high degree contributed.

In every fight in which they have been engaged, and recently in those near Knoxville, at Loudon, at Campbell's Station, and finally around the defenses on both sides of the river, while on the march, and in cold and in hunger, they have everywhere shown a spirit which has given to the Army of the Ohio a name second to none.

By holding in check a powerful body of the enemy, they have seriously weakened the Rebel army under Bragg, which has been completely defeated by General Grant, and at the latest accounts was in full retreat for Dalton, closely pursued by him, with the loss of 6,000 prisoners, 52 pieces of artillery and 12 stands of colors.

For this great and practical result, toward which the Army of the Ohio has done so much, the Commanding-General congratulates them, and with the fullest reliance on their patience and courage in the dangers they may yet have to meet, looks forward with confidence, under the blessing of Almighty God, to a successful close of the campaign.

By command of Maj.-Gen. BURNSIDE.
LEWIS RICHMOND, A. A. G.
OFFICIAL: R. C. KISE, Assist.-Adj.-Gen.

FROM CHATTANOOGA.

The Pursuit of Bragg Ended—Our Withdrawal from Ringgold—Position of the Enemy—Rebels Asking our Protection—Their Sufferings Intolerable—A Great Exodus of the People—Gen. Smith—Longstreet on the Wing.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CHATTANOOGA, Dec. 1, 1863.

With the battle of Ringgold, on the 26th ult., in which the Rebels sustained a defeat, the pursuit of Bragg ended. Hooker remained at Ringgold till 3 o'clock this morning, when he commenced withdrawing his forces. A short time after the evacuation, the town was seen to be in flames, and it is believed that the greater part was consumed.

Before falling back, a reconnoissance was made by the 2d Kentucky Cavalry to ascertain Bragg's whereabouts. At Tunnel Hill, midway between Ringgold and Dalton, a small cavalry force was found posted. From the best information that could be obtained, it is believed that Bragg, with the remnants of his late army, has taken up a position about five miles beyond Dalton, on the Coveyhettee Creek, near Cedar Ridge.

While our forces were at Ringgold hundreds of citizens from many miles around, some of them bringing their families, came into our camp and asked for protection. The most of them did not disguise that they had supported the Rebellion. But, they said this last blow would be the death of the Confederacy, and there was no use in holding out longer. They represented that the condition of that entire population was deplorable, and that their sufferings were becoming intolerable. A few came to rejoice, to welcome the old flag and to help carry it onward. The greater part of those who came wanted to come within our lines, and begged to be permitted to do so. When told that our transportation was barely enough to supply our own wants, they said that if we would only take the few household goods, such as bedding and a limited supply of domestic articles they had brought with them, they would leave their provisions and follow the army on foot. Their appeals were most earnest, and in many instances pitiful.

When the Army moved out of town before daybreak this morning, a long cavalcade of refugees commenced to follow, but the most of them were cut off and left behind by the turning of the long hedge on the Chickamauga. As it was, however, nearly two hundred persons, men, women, and children, made their way to Chattanooga with our forces, by whom they were well cared for.

All these refugees bear witness to the panic-stricken condition of Bragg's forces, and say that there were thousands of men without guns, and that a large number of guns were thrown into the Chickamauga Creek. It is trustworthily ascertained also that the Rebel generals, Stewart and Maurey, were wounded at the battle of Ringgold.

Before Hooker retired Sherman was well on his way, by the route of the railroad, to Cleveland, while the 4th Corps, Gen. Granger, was on another route, intending to effect a junction on the Hiawassie, with the new operations pointing against Longstreet. Of their movements the reader will have heard by telegraph before this gets into print.

By an order of Gen. Grant, Brig.-Gen. Wm. F. Smith has been appointed Chief of Engineers of the Military Division of the Mississippi. The order bears date the 12th ult., and is evidence of the high appreciation which Gen. Grant has of the capacity and services of Gen. Smith. In this connection I will state that immediately succeeding the taking of the Brown's Ferry, Gen. Grant recommended the promotion of Gen. Smith to a Major-Generalcy, and accompanied the recommendation with a high encomium on his services and qualifications. Very lately Gen. Thomas, unsolicited and with a full knowledge of the fitness and labors of Gen. Smith, has backed up the recommendation of Gen. Grant with a letter to Secretary Stanton. It is clearly within the fact that to Gen. Smith belongs, in a very large measure, the recent splendid successes in this Department. That he will receive his promotion is scarcely to be questioned.

Among the Rebel officers taken prisoners in the late battle are two sons of John C. Breckinridge. That their father escaped is more creditable to his prudence than soldierly qualities.

We hear this morning that Longstreet is doing his best to escape through the Gaps eastward into Virginia. Having the advantage of an early start, it is not unlikely that he will get away with the bulk of his army. The country through which he must go is poorly calculated to subsist a large force, and, especially should he be pursued vigorously, he will find it an exceedingly hard road to travel. C. D. BRIGHAM.

The Statue of Freedom.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1863.

The colossal statue of "Freedom," in bronze, by Clark Mills, modeled by Crawford, is to-day set upon the great tholus surmounting the dome of the Capitol.

During more than two years of our struggle, while the national cause seemed weak, she has patiently waited and watched below; now that victory crowns our advances, and the conspirators are being hedged in and vanquished everywhere, and the bond are being freed, she comes forward, the cynosure of thousands of eyes, her face turned rebukingly toward Virginia, and her hand outstretched as if in guaranty of National Unity and Personal Freedom.

Perhaps the whole history of that admirable work of art is not generally known. As I see, from my window, the crowd gathered at the Capitol, and as the grand salute in chorus from all the forts around the city reaches my ears, it occurs to me to repeat a couple of incidents for THE TRIBUNE.

When the bronze castings were being completed, a the foundery of Mr. Mills, near Bladensburg, his foreman, who had superintended the work from the beginning, and who was receiving $8 per day, struck and demanded $10, assuring Mr. M. that the advance must be granted to him, as nobody in America, except himself, could complete the work. Mr. M. felt that the demand was exorbitant, and appealed in his dilemma to the slaves who were assisting in the molding. "I can do that well," said one of them, an intelligent and ingenious servant, who had been intimately engaged in the various processes. The striker was dismissed, and the negro, assisted occasionally by the finer skill of his master, took the striker's place as superintendent, and the work went on. The black master-builder lifted the ponderous uncouth masses, and bolted them together, joint to joint, piece by piece, till they blended into the majestic "Freedom," who to-day lifts her head in the blue clouds above Washington, invoking a benediction on the imperiled Republic!

Was there a prophecy in that moment when the slave became the artist, and with rare poetic justice, reconstructed the beautiful symbol of freedom for America?

Another fact: The original model of Crawford was crowned with the old "Liberty Cap"—loved by our grandfathers for its significance, but fallen into disrepute and disuse under the Pro-Slavery debauchery of the last twenty years. When Mr. Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War under Pierce, saw the model, he said at once, "This will never do. We Americans have patronized this absurd 'Liberty Cap' too long already. It was the detestable head-gear adopted by the freed slaves of Rome. Let us put it out of our sight!" And with characteristic bad taste, and fondness for American institutions for which he has not recently been conspicuous, he ordered that the classic helmet be doffed, and that the goddess be crowned, after the manner of our North American Indians, with a fantastic head-dress of feathers! So the Liberty Cap of Crawford was knocked off, and the barbarous device of Jeff. Davis mounted in its place, consisting of a limpsy eagle skin, with a row of stiff quills, rampant, running down the back, from beak to tail. It is related, that when the amended head was finished, and on exhibition in the Rotunda, an Irishman, inspecting it, said to his comrade, "Murther, Mike, what a quare bird is this, wid his tail on the top of his head!" As it stands to-day, though Mr. Mills gave all his talent to its construction, and interpreted carefully and faithfully the orders which he received, the head-dress is an utter *nondescript*; and our capitol is to wear a sign of barbarism for its very crown, because Jeff. Davis, worshiping Slavery, despised the significant and grand old "Cap of Liberty."

A spirited debate has been carried on in the papers with reference to the ponderous shield on which the Goddess leans—a half border, with which the artists have taken the liberty to encompass it, giving it somewhat the appearance of bearing fifteen stripes, instead of the old thirteen. The critics charge that this was deliberately designed to represent the fifteen Slave States, instead of the thirteen original members. This is too bold an outrage for probability; besides, the slight alteration of the shield does not justify the criticism. All frivolous changes in heraldry, and all fanciful ornamentation, are obnoxious to every artistic mind, not less on the ground of ambiguity than of irregularity; I do not see that this is open to any other objection. There are really but thirteen separate stripes. Besides, all will believe that Crawford had too much patriotism to conceive, and Mills, though educated in South Carolina, too much honor to execute such a wanton and wicked mutilation of our National Shield. W. A. C.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Officers of Colored Troops Recognized by Rebel Officers—How the Thing was Brought About—Promotion of Robert Small, the Loyal Black Pilot—Land Sales—The Tax on Trade.

From our Special Correspondent.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., Dec. 6, 1863.

Officers of the National army commanding negro troops have at last been officially recognized and treated as equals by officers of the Rebel army.

It will be remembered by all who have watched the progress of military affairs in this Department that the Rebels have repeatedly refused to treat or hold any intercourse whatever with the officers of the 1st South Carolina, Col. Higginson. This regiment, since the evacuation of Jacksonville, Fla., has been doing picket duty on Port Royal Island, and as this island is but a short distance from the main land, it has been necessary to hold frequent intercourse with the commandant of the post at Beaufort, Gen. Saxton, in reference to the exchange of prisoners and other matters of business.

The authorities in Washington having determined upon no fixed policy in relation to the status of officers commanding negro troops, of course their recognition as equals by Rebel officers has not been insisted upon here, and flags of truce have generally been received from or carried to the Rebel lines by staff officers having no direct command over negro troops. Accomplished gentlemen and gallant soldiers like Col. Higginson, until within the past week, have not been considered as equals by the whisky-drinking and tobacco-chewing chivalry of South Carolina; but all at once a change has suddenly taken place in their policy. Capt. Bryant, with a company or two of negro troops from the 1st South Carolina, made a raid a few days since upon the main land and liberated from Slavery a score or more of stalwart negroes, all of whom are now dressed in the uniform of the National army, and are daily marching to the tune of the Star Spangled Banner. In returning with these negroes, it will be remembered, Capt. Bryant was pursued by a company of cavalry, a squad of infantry, and ten or twelve *bloodhounds*. In former days bloodhounds chased defenseless negroes, but last week they pursued armed soldiers, and instead of fastening their teeth in human flesh, clinched them against sharp bayonets as they were run down their throats or thrust into their sides.

The bloodhounds were all killed; several of the brave cavaliers who hounded them in were wounded and taken prisoners, and a Rebel Major brought off without a scar. It was to learn the physical condition of this Rebel Major, and supply his wants, that communication, through flag of truce, became necessary. Col. Higginson, with his negro troops, was still doing picket duty on Port Royal Island. The flag of truce appeared—Major Trowbridge of the 1st South Carolina, went out to meet it. Major John C. Calhoun, grandson of John C. Calhoun, bore the communication from the Rebel authorities, and without a single word of protest, held official intercourse with an officer of the National Army commanding negro troops. The first negro soldier killed in this war was named John Brown. Is it not fitting that the first Rebel officer whose official duty it became to recognize officers commanding negro troops should be named John C. Calhoun.

While negro troops through their officers are being recognized by the Rebels as soldiers, negroes in the civil service in this department, who have from its creation rendered valuable aid to the National cause, are being rewarded according to their merits.

All who know anything about this war are familiar with the story of Robert Small, the brave negro who brought the steamer Planter out of Charleston Harbor more than two years since. Since that brave deed he has been almost constantly in the service of the Government, was on board the ill-fated Keokuk as pilot, in the first attack upon Sumter by Du Pont, and has since in the same capacity penetrated nearly every inlet and creek along the entire coast, and been under fire for days, and sometimes weeks at a time. After serving on many vessels, he again found himself on the same steamer he brought out of Charleston Harbor. He was once more discharging the duties of pilot on board the Planter.

A few days since Lieut.-Col. Elwell, Chief-Quartermaster of this Department, required the services of this vessel where she would be liable to come under the fire of Rebel guns. The captain, a brawny white sailor, refused to go with the vessel. The moment the fact became known at headquarters, Lieut.-Col. Elwell, without consultation with any higher authority, issued the following order, which, for simple justice to a brave and loyal negro, officially acknowledged, has seldom been equalled in this or any other department. It is unnecessary to say that Robert Small took command of the vessel, and faithfully discharged the duty required of him.

OFFICE OF CHIEF QUARTERMASTER, [illegible] Nov. 26, 1863.

Capt. A. T. Duston, Chief Assistant Quartermaster, [illegible]

SIR: You will please place Robert Small in charge of the United States transport Planter as captain. He brought her out of Charleston harbor more than a year ago, running under the guns of Sumter, Moultrie, and the other defenses of that stronghold. He is an excellent pilot, of undoubted bravery, and in every respect worthy of the position. This is due him as a proper recognition of his heroism and services. The present captain is a coward, though a white man. Dismiss him therefore, and give the steamer to this brave black Saxon.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. J. ELWELL,
Chief Quartermaster Department South.

It may interest some to know that the above order was immediately approved by Gen. Gillmore.

JEFF. DAVIS'S MESSAGE.

The annual message of Jefferson Davis is before us. A more lugubrious document we never read There is not a bright streak in it. All is darkness and despair. If the chief conspirator can make out no better case than this for the Confederacy, when allowed to tell his own story without being put to a cross-examination, what a doleful tale would the real facts warrant! We propose to give an elaborate synopsis of this artful and specious apology of the traitor President for the sorry plight in which he finds the affairs of Rebeldom at the close of the third year of the insurrection. We will give without retrenchment his statement of

MILITARY OPERATIONS.

Grave reverses befell our arms soon after your departure from Richmond. Early in July our strongholds at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, together with their entire garrisons, capitulated to the combined land and naval forces of the enemy. The important interior position of Jackson next fell into their temporary possession. Our unsuccessful assault on the post of Helena was followed, at a later period, by the invasion of Arkansas, and the retreat of our army from Little Rock, gave to the enemy the control of the important valley in which it is situated.

The resolute spirit of the people soon rose superior to the temporary despondency naturally resulting from these reverses. The gallant troops, so ably commanded in the States beyond the Mississippi, inflicted repeated defeats on the invading armies in Louisiana and on the coast of Texas. Detachments of troops and active bodies of partisans kept up so effective a war on the Mississippi River as practically to destroy its value as an avenue of commerce.

The determined and successful defense of Charleston against the land and naval operations of the enemy afforded an inspiring example of our ability to repel the attacks even of the iron-clad fleet on which they chiefly rely; while on the Northern frontier our success was still more marked.

The able commander, who conducted the campaign in Virginia, determined to meet the threatened advance on Richmond, for which the enemy had made long and costly preparations, by forcing their armies to cross the Potomac and fight in defense of their own capital and homes. Transferring the battle-field to their own soil, he succeeded in compelling their rapid retreat from Virginia, and in the hard-fought battle of Gettysburg inflicted such severity of punishment as disabled them from early renewal of the campaign as originally projected.

Unfortunately, the communications on which our General relied for receiving his supplies of munitions were interrupted by extraordinary floods, which so swelled the Potomac as to render impassable the fords by which his advance had been made, and he was thus forced to a withdrawal, which was conducted with deliberation, after securing large trains of captured supplies, and with a constant but unaccepted tender of battle. On more than one occasion the enemy has since made demonstrations of a purpose to advance, invariably followed by a precipitate retreat to intrenched lines on the approach of our forces.

The effective check thus opposed to the advance of invaders at all points, was such as to afford hope of their early expulsion from portions of the territory previously occupied by them, when the country was painfully surprised by the intelligence that the officer in command of Cumberland Gap had surrendered that important and easily-defensible pass without firing a shot, upon the summons of a force still believed to have been inadequate to its reduction, and when reenforcements were within supporting distance and had been ordered to his aid.

The entire garrison, including the commander, being still held prisoners by the enemy, I am unable to suggest any explanation of this disaster, which laid open Eastern Tennessee and South-western Virginia to hostile operations, and broke the line of communication between the seat of Government and Middle Tennessee. This easy success of the enemy was followed by an advance of Gen. Rosecrans into Georgia, and our army evacuated Chattanooga and availed itself of the opportunity thus afforded of winning on the field of Chicamauga one of the most brilliant and decisive victories of the war.

This signal defeat of Gen. Rosecrans was followed by his retreat into Chattanooga, where his imperiled position had the immediate effect of relieving the pressure of the invasion at other points, forcing the concentration for his relief, of large bodies of troops withdrawn from the armies of the Mississippi Valley and in Northern Virginia. The combined forces thus accumulated against us in Tennessee so greatly outnumbered our army as to encourage the enemy to attack. After a long and severe battle, in which great carnage was inflicted on him, some of our troops inexplicably abandoned positions of great strength, and by a disorderly retreat, compelled the commander to withdraw the forces elsewhere successful, and finally to retire with his whole army to a position some 20 or 30 miles to the rear. It is believed that if the troops who yielded to the assault had fought with the valor which they had displayed on previous occasions, and which was manifested in this battle on the other parts of the line, the enemy would have been repulsed with very great slaughter, and our country would have escaped the misfortune, and the army the mortification of the first defeat that has resulted from misconduct by the troops.

In the meantime, the army of Gen. Burnside was driven from all its field positions in Eastern Tennessee, and forced to retreat into his intrenchments at Knoxville, where, for some weeks, it was threatened with capture by the forces under Gen. Longstreet. No information has reached me of the final result of the operations of our commander, though intelligence has arrived of his withdrawal from that place.

While, therefore, our success in driving the enemy from our soil has not equaled the expectations confidently entertained at the commencement of the campaign, his further progress has been checked. If we are forced to regret losses in Tennessee and Arkansas, we are not without ground for congratulation on successes in Louisiana and Texas. On the sea-coast he is exhausted by vain efforts to capture our ports, while on the northern frontier he has in turn felt the pressure and dreads the renewal of invasion.

The indomitable courage and perseverance of the people in the defense of their homes have been nobly attested by the unanimity with which the Legislatures of Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia, have recently given expression to the popular sentiment; and like manifestations may be anticipated from all the States. Whatever obstinacy may be displayed by the enemy in his desperate sacrifices of money, life, and liberty, in the hope of enslaving us, the experience of mankind has too conclusively shown the superior endurance of those who fight for home, liberty, and independence, to permit any doubt of the result.

Though Davis puts the best possible face upon the terrible disasters that have befallen his armies during the last twelve months, yet there is a degree of frankness in his statements, an admission of "grave reverses," a confession that he had under-estimated the "obstinacy" with which the Federal Government was bent upon following up the contest, that challenges our respect, while betraying the utter despair that evidently fills his own bosom. When a mind so reckless and versatile as his, and at a crisis when he should draw courage, or seem to draw courage, from even his calamities, can find only some trifling and temporary advantages in Louisiana and Texas, and the non-capture of Charleston and the drawn battle of Chickamauga, to set off against the demolishing of Sumter, the capture of Morris Island, the occupation of the Rio Grande, the achievements at Helena and Grand Gulf, the fall of Port Hudson and Vicksburg, the splendid victories of Gettysburg and Chattanooga, and the permanent lodgment of our forces in East Tennessee, and the driving back of his armies and the crushing in of his Confederacy at all points, we may feel assured that he *believes* (whatever he may *say*) that his cause stands upon the verge of utter ruin.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

We like the pluck of Davis. He coquetted with Victoria and fawned upon Napoleon two years. Having, through the stolidity of Mason, failed to win the favor of England, he now turns upon her with all the bitterness of a rejected suitor, and rains down upon her a torrent of reproaches and sarcasm. With Mr. Seward's volumes of diplomatic correspondence in his hands, he is able to give a pretty accurate sketch of the tergiversations and hypocrisies of the English Ministry on the subjects of effective blockades and neutral trade. He declares that by common consent European powers have confided all matters relating to the Rebellion, the war, the rights of neutral nations, and the acknowledgment of the independence of his Confederacy, to England and France; and that while Napoleon has been courteous, and seemingly inclined to listen to the overtures of Slidell, yet, as those two Powers had agreed to act together, and as England, which had first faced both ways, had finally turned her back square in Mason's face, therefore all hope of European aid and comfort has fled. He complains that our blockade has been a mere paper blockade, and that the real reason why England and France did not view it in that light, and break right through it, was that certain ugly precedents, which occurred during the Old Napoleonic wars, arising out of the Berlin and Milan decrees, and the British order in council, might be cited first against the one and then the other of these two powers, and therefore they thought the best mode of avoiding unpleasant reminiscences was to recognize our blockade as effective and steer clear of it. There is some truth, doubtless, in these statements. In this connection, the Rebel chief is very savage upon Earl Russell, Secretary for Foreign Affairs. While Palmerston has been willing to encourage the Confederate agents in England with hints if not promises that if the Confederacy would only wait till "something turned up," he might join Napoleon in recognizing its existence, yet, it is plain that he has never had any hopes of Russell. He comments upon the celebrated speech, in which the Foreign Secretary avowed his cordial sympathy with the North, in a tone of sarcastic bitterness. The Earl's undisguised hostility to the South because their so-called Government is founded upon Slavery as its chief corner stone, provokes his ire, and he taunts England for the ten-thousandth time with having forced Slavery upon them while Colonies of the British Crown. This topic, invoking to his aid the hereditary hatred of the Southern Democracy toward England, impels Davis to make it the most racy, as it is the most elaborate and able, portion of the Message. After touching the Mexican question somewhat gingerly, and turning a few furtive glances toward that country, as if it might be a safe asylum for a hard-pressed man to escape to by and by, he next discusses that most doleful of all subjects, the

FINANCES.

And here even the audacity of Davis is unequal to the dire dilemma in which he finds the monetary affairs of the Confederacy. He makes a virtue of necessity, and admits and depicts the hopeless bankruptcy of the concern. He could tell a pretty good story in sketching the military events of the year, for his deluded soldiers had generally fought well. He could give sharp cuts at England when discussing neutral rights and paper blockades. But he was not bold enough to play the hypocrite about money matters when addressing a body of self-styled Senators and Representatives who had just paid ten dollars each for a poor dinner, or a hundred dollars for a decent pair of boots, and could not buy a superfine overcoat for themselves or a fashionable silk dress for their wives, at any price. Their stocks and Treasury notes are worthless, because there is nothing with which to pay the interest on the one or redeem the other. He recommends that the debt be funded, and that remorseless taxation be resorted to to give it value. He is troubled about certain constitutional provisions relating to this subject, and feels tenderly toward land and slaves which must bear the chief burdens of taxation. But the exigency is so desperate that the Constitution must be ignored, and the tax-gatherers be turned loose upon the lords of the soil and the lash. Now, we venture the assertion that if the Rebellion does not collapse before a serious attempt is made to raise taxes enough out of the landholders and slaveholders to pay the interest on the public debt of the Confederacy in coin, say from eighty to one hundred millions annually, it will certainly "go to smash" when the attempt is made, and the policy enforced, as it must be, at the bayonet's point.

ARMY AND NAVY.

Davis does not tell how large his army is. But he does disclose the fact that it is too small to face the crisis, and is rapidly melting away. He calls for more men, recommends that the circle of the conscription be widened so as to embrace new classes, and that negroes be pressed into the service in various capacities. He touches this latter topic tenderly; but, as Palmerston, Napoleon, and Vallandigham have failed him, he has evidently run so low that he is not above being saved by "niggers," if they can reach his case. He does not boast much of his navy, but says he is building a few vessels at ten or a dozen places, though sadly short of mechanics to construct the ships and of seamen to navigate them when finished.

Much interest being felt upon the subject, we give in full the few truths and many falsehoods he utters upon the

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

I regret to inform you that the enemy have returned to the barbarous policy with which they inaugurated the war, and that the exchange of prisoners has been for some time suspended. The correspondence of the Commissioners of Exchange is submitted to you by the Secretary of War, and it has already been published for the information of all now suffering useless imprisonment. The conduct of the authorities of the United States has been consistently perfidious on this subject. An agreement for exchange in the incipiency of the war had just been concluded when the fall of Fort Donelson reversed the previous state of things, and gave them an excess of prisoners.

The agreement was immediately repudiated by them, and so remained until the fortune of war again placed us in possession of the larger number. A new cartel was then made, and under it, for many months, we restored to them many thousands of prisoners in excess of those whom they held for exchange, and encampments of the surplus paroled prisoners, delivered up by us, were established in the United States, where the men were able to receive the comfort and solace of constant communication with their homes and families. In July last the fortune of war again favored the enemy, and they were enabled to exchange for duty the men previously delivered to them, against those captured and paroled at Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

The prisoners taken at Gettysburg, however, remained in their hands, and should have been returned to our lines on parole, to await exchange. Instead of executing a duty imposed by the plainest dictates of justice and good faith, pretexts were instantly sought for holding them in permanent captivity. General orders rapidly succeeded each other from the bureau at Washington, placing new constructions on an agreement which had given rise to no dispute while we retained the advantage in the number of prisoners.

With a disregard of honorable obligations almost unexampled, the enemy did not hesitate, in addition to retaining the prisoners captured by them, to declare null the paroles given by the prisoners captured by us in the same series of engagements, and liberated on condition of not again serving until exchanged. They have since openly insisted on treating the paroles given by their own soldiers as invalid, and those of our soldiers, given under precisely similar circumstances, as binding. A succession of similar unjust pretensions has been set up in a correspondence tediously prolonged, and every device employed to cover the disregard of an obligation which between belligerent nations is only to be enforced by a sense of honor.

No further comment is needed on this subject, but it may be permitted to direct your special attention to the close of the correspondence submitted to you, from which you will perceive that the final proposal made by the enemy, in settlement of all disputes under the cartel, is that we should liberate all prisoners held by us, without the offer to release from captivity any of those held by them.

In the meantime a systematic and concerted effort has been made to quiet the complaints in the United States of those relatives and friends of the prisoners in our hands who are unable to understand why the cartel is not executed in their favor, by the groundless assertion that we are the parties who refuse compliance. Attempts are also made to shield themselves from the execration excited by their own odious treatment of our officers and soldiers now captive in their hands, by misstatement, such as that the prisoners held by us are deprived of food.

To this last accusation the conclusive answer has been made, that in accordance with our law, and the general orders of the department, the rations of the prisoners are precisely the same, in quantity and in quality, as those served out to our own gallant soldiers in the field, and which have been found sufficient to support them in their arduous campaign, while it is not pretended by the enemy that they treat prisoners by the same generous rule. By an indulgence, perhaps unprecedented, we have even allowed the prisoners in our hands to be supplied by their friends at home with comforts not enjoyed by the men who captured them in battle.

In contrast to this treatment, the most revolting inhumanity has characterized the conduct of the United States toward prisoners held by them. One prominent fact, which admits no denial nor palliation, must suffice as a test. The officers of our army—natives of Southern and semi-tropical climates and unprepared for the cold of a Northern Winter—have been conveyed for imprisonment, during the rigors of the present season, to the most northern and exposed situation that could be selected by the enemy. There, beyond the reach of comforts, and often even of news from home and family, exposed to the piercing cold of the Northern lakes, they are held by men who cannot be ignorant of, even if they do not design, the probable result.

How many of our unfortunate friends and comrades, who have passed unscathed through numerous battles, will perish on Johnson's Island, under the cruel trial to which they are subjected, none but the Omniscient can foretell. That they will endure this barbarous treatment with the same stern fortitude that they have ever evinced in their country's service, cannot be doubted. But who can be found to believe the assertion that it is our refusal to execute the cartel, and not the malignity of the foe, which has caused the infliction of such intolerable cruelty on our own loved and honored defenders?

We shall not expose the falsehoods of this statement, nor show how it wholly ignores the real points at issue respecting the exchange of negro troops. Those who have read Gen. Hitchcock's report understand the subject fully.

After reiterating stale falsehoods about the "cruelties of the enemy," and the usual tirade about our "barbarities," he closes with this pious invocation:

God has blessed us with success disproportionate to our means, and, under His divine favor, our labors must at last be crowned with the reward due to men who have given all they possessed in the righteous defense of their inalienable rights, their homes, and their altars.

The man who can read this message, and not see and feel that it is the dying wail of a dispirited and defeated traitor and rebel, is in great danger of being nominated for a snug place in some asylum for lunatics or idiots.

Longstreet's Army.

From The Richmond Examiner, Dec. 8.

We have to-day only one piece of news of interest, and that relates to the present position of Gen. Longstreet. We are at last able to inform our readers where he is. An official dispatch was received from him yesterday, dated "Rutledge, Dec. 6." Rutledge is 30 miles north-east of Knoxville, on the road to Bristol, and 100 miles from the latter place. At the date of his dispatch he had halted at Rutledge, but he will inevitably fall back to Bristol on the approach of the enemy. In his present position he is liable to an attack in front from Burnside, in flank from Cumberland Gap, and in rear from the pursuing forces of Grant, who, the telegraph informs us, are making their way toward his rear by the same route by which he himself proceeded against Burnside. Notwithstanding his apparently critical position, we think we may regard him as safe. He has the shortest route before him to South-Western Virginia and a clear start of his pursuers. What Longstreet has effected in East Tennessee may be summed up in the word "nothing."

The Wilmington, N. C., papers are full of advertisements offering for sale by the cargo goods which have run the blockade. Sugar is selling for three cents a pound, owing to the immense quantity on hand. All the railroads from Wilmington are at work night and day, to the exclusion of all other business, conveying supplies to the Rebel army, and goods into the interior. Over two hundred steamers and vessels belonging to different lines are engaged in running the blockade into this one port. Gov. Vance says in his recent message that the State of North Carolina (which is largely engaged in this business) has received clothing enough through this channel to clothe her troops to January, 1865.

CRANBERRY CROP OF CAPE COD.—Returns from Harwich, Brewster, Dennis, and Chatham, four towns on Cape Cod, show the cranberry crop this year to be 3,899 barrels, which sold for $38,660 25.

HOW TO KEEP WARM.—Soldiers and others will do well to remember this bit of advice during cold weather. A large newspaper placed between a pair of bed blankets is equal in warmth to a thick comforter.

MARRIED.

CARMALT—JOHNSON—On Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1863, at Christ Church, Stratford, Conn., by the Rev. George Dowdell Johnson, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Owego, Dr. William Henry Carmalt of New-York City, to Laura Woolsey, youngest daughter of William Samuel Johnson of Stratford.

DANA—CLARKE—On Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Winsted, Conn., by the Rev. Dr. Howes of Hartford, the Rev. Malcolm McG. Dana, Pastor of the First Congregational Church, in Winsted, and Miss Susie B. Clarke, daughter of Lucius Clark, esq., of the same place.

JONES—CHESEBROUGH—In Glastenbury, Conn., on Saturday, Dec. 5, by the Rev. A. S. Chesebrough, Lieut. Henry R. Jones, acting Adjutant of the 11th Regiment, U. S. Invalid Corps, stationed at Elmira, N. Y., and Sarah L. Chesebrough of Glastenbury, Conn., daughter of the officiating clergyman.

THORNE—CHAPMAN—On Wednesday, Dec. 9, in Trinity Church, Middletown Point, N. J., by the Right Rev. Wm. H. Odenheimer, D. D., Bishop of New-Jersey, Josephine, daughter of Capt. J. H. Chapman, to the Hon. John L. Thorne of Hastings, Minn.

VAN BRUNT—VAN PELT—At the Reformed Dutch Church, New-Utrecht, Long Island, on Thursday, Dec. 3, by the Rev. R. O. Currie, D. D., J. Van Brunt, jr., to Mary L., daughter of John L. Van Pelt, esq., all of New-Utrecht. No cards.

DIED.

BARBOUR—At New-Brighton, Staten Island, on Monday, Dec. 7, Elizabeth G., wife of the Rev. L. R. Barbour, and daughter of the late Rev. Wm. Greenough of Newtown, Mass., aged 55 years.

BOYNTON—At East Hartford, Conn., on Saturday, Dec. 12, 1863, John Boynton, formerly of South Coventry, Conn., aged 80 years.

BRIGGS—At Beloit, Wisconsin, on Saturday, Dec. 5, Dr. Ralph L. Briggs of Honesdale, Pennsylvania, in the 37th year of his age.

CAMPBELL—On his way to California, about a year ago last March, Daniel Campbell of Standish, Me., aged 28 years.

DEDERER—In Yonkers, on Thursday, Dec. 10, Jane, wife of Christain Dederer, aged 73 years.

FLETCHER—On Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Valley Stream, Queens County, Long Island, Andrew Fletcher, in the 80th year of his age.

FREEBORN—At Hudson, on Tuesday, Nov. 24, George Freeborn, son of the late Thomas Freeborn of this city, in the 63d year of his age.

FLOYD—At Utica, on Friday, Dec. 4, Richard Thornton, youngest child of the Hon. John G. and Sarah B. Floyd of Mastic, Long Island, aged 12 years.

POND—At Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., on Monday, Dec. 7, Ann Glover, wife of S. E. Pond.

PECK—On Thursday, Dec. 10, after a lingering illness, at his residence, at Closter, N. J., Gideon Peck, aged 73 years.

SPROUL—On Monday, Dec. 7, in Douglas Hospital, Washington, D. C., Sergt. Jonathan Sproul, 40th Regiment, N. Y. S. V., of wounds received in the battle of Hazle Run, Va., in the 24th year of his age.

SMITH—At Paterson, N. J., on Friday morning, Dec. 4, of hemorrhage of the lungs, Thomas O. Smith, agent of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, aged 30 years.

TRIPP—Lieut.-Col. Tripp, of the 1st Regiment, U. S. S. S., Berdan Sharpshooters, was killed while in the advance skirmish, on Wednesday, Dec. 2, on the battlefield of Mine River.

Lieut.-Col. Tripp was a Swiss by birth, and was a Lieutenant and Military Instructor in the Swiss Army. On the breaking out of the Crimean war he joined the foreign legion; he ranked as Captain in the 5th Company, and served faithfully, and with distinction, throughout the whole of that campaign. Immediately after the close of that war he immigrated to this country, and carried on his profession as architect; when the rebellion broke out he joined the 1st Company of U. S. S. S., which was recruited at Weehawken, N. J., of which he was Captain. During the campaign he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel for his bravery and gallantry while leading his regiment. He served in all the battles excepting the second battle of Bull Run, until he was pierced by a musket ball at the late engagement at Mine River. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss.

TOMLINSON—At Brookfield, Conn., on Friday, Dec. 11, Daniel Tomlinson, esq., aged 87 years. Funeral on Sunday, 13th inst.

The Weekly Tribune.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 1863.

We remind our patrons whose last yearly subscriptions commenced with the No. for Jan. 3, 1863 (No. 1,112), that their year will expire with our next issue (No. 1,163), making 52 issues. We shall strive, as hitherto, to make THE TRIBUNE worthy the support of the friends of the Union and of Impartial Freedom. The coming year is deeply fraught with events of momentous interest, and we trust that our readers of 1863 will be not only our readers for 1864, but that they will each do something to increase the circulation and influence of THE TRIBUNE. There is hardly a man who does not know some other man who ought to be enlightened in regard to the country's needs and his own duties; and there is no other mode so effectual as the weekly visit of a loyal, liberty-loving newspaper. Let, then, every reader of THE TRIBUNE see that not only the earnest but the indifferent voters of his neighborhood are supplied with proper reading matter, and there need be no fear of National shipwreck.

The Tribune, Gratis.

Every subscriber who sends $15 for ten copies of THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE will receive one copy gratis. Those who send $25 for twenty copies to one address will receive a free copy.

To each Club of thirty we send the SEMI-WEEKLY, and to each Club of fifty THE DAILY TRIBUNE will be sent.

Additions to Clubs.

To Post-Offices where we have Clubs of ten, or over, additions can be made at $1 50 each. To Post-Offices where we have Clubs of twenty or over, additions can be made, the papers to be sent *to one address*, at $1 25 each, or *to names of subscribers* at $1 50 each.

At places where full Clubs cannot be formed for either THE SEMI-WEEKLY or WEEKLY TRIBUNE, the subscribers for the two editions can unite, thus coming within our terms.

Those of our subscribers who send money by express will please prepay the express charges.

IS IT WELL?

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, has just officially promulgated the terms on which he is not merely willing but anxious to restore peace to this distracted, devastated country. In substance his proposition runs thus: "No vengeance—no military execution—no confiscation—no more devastation—let us all be friends, equals, brothers, once more: But Slavery, the wicked, wanton fomenter of this horrible strife, must die, or the Peace will be but a hollow, delusive truce, to be soon followed by another desolating war. Slavery dead, there is nothing left to quarrel about; and it will never again be possible to raise an army in this country to fire at the American flag and fight to destroy the Great Republic. Simply because every persistent slaveholder is at heart a partisan of the Rebellion, and, so long as he wants Slavery perpetuated, can be nothing else, it is essential that Slavery should die, to the end that the Republic may surely live." Such is our President's programme, and we indorse every word of it. It is not merely wise and just—it is humane and beneficent. It is the true programme for saving life and stanching the wounds of our country.

Jefferson Davis, President of the Rebel Confederacy, whose corner-stone is Slavery, has likewise favored the world with *his* ultimatum. In *his* Annual Message, the great and terrible reverses recently encountered *by his Confederacy are pretty fairly admitted, and the utter, hopeless bankruptcy of its Finances all but confessed.* His purse-bearer, Memminger, follows with an exposé which tells their dupes that the Six Hundred Millions of promises they have issued must be plumply repudiated—that they must not be received even for the heavy taxes he requires — but compulsorily funded, and a new issue put forth, on the ruins of this. "Either do this or submit," is in substance Mr. Memminger's alternative to Jeff.'s Congress. They will probably do it, but it will not help him nor save them. On the contrary, every one will know from the start that the new issue will swiftly follow in the footsteps of the old. Virtually and practically, the Rebellion has already collapsed. There is not a man on earth who wants to sell its leaders a thousand dollars' worth of anything for any money or other valuable it has to give in exchange. Such is the case to-day on its own soil: such will it be abroad after Davis's and Memminger's new manifestoes shall have crossed the Atlantic.

Such is the crisis in which Mr. Fernando Wood—who apologized to Toombs for being unable to control the Police and compel them to let arms for Georgia—already in open revolt against the Union—pass through our city unobstructed and unchallenged—proposes that Congress shall instruct the President to send three Commissioners to Richmond to sue for Peace. And fifty-nine Members of the House vote against laying this proposition on the table!

They vote in effect to say to the Rebels, "Hold on! Don't give it up so! There are friends here who are hastening to your rescue!" And that is just how their vote will be interpreted by the leading traitors. They will use it to strengthen the fainting faith of their dupes, and to hark forward their conscript-hunting bloodhounds, human and canine, in their work of filling up the shattered ranks of Treason.

Now we intensely desire Peace; but we would not have our Government seek it at Richmond. To send Commissioners thither in quest of it is to admit that we are beaten and ready to consent to Disunion. The Rebels would so understand it, and with good reason. Better send to Raleigh, to Milledgeville, to Austin, or anywhere else in Dixie, in quest of Peace, than to Richmond.

Washington City is the capital of this country in pursuance of the Federal Constitution. Messrs. Jefferson Davis, Benjamin, Toombs, Slidell, Mason, &c., were all there barely three years ago, clothed with power to act for their respective States. They chose to abandon the forum for the field—to transfer their controversy with us from the arbitrament of the Yeas and Nays to that of the sword. They went off to Richmond because they would not be further associated with us; and we are not going after them. They must dissolve and disperse their Sanhedrim of treason, and let the States they have lured away return to the ways of loyalty and peace. Let half a dozen of them run the blockade from Wilmington on the swiftest steamer that scuds during the next dark night, and there would be peace in the land within a month. The rally of the people of Arkansas to the Union standard at Little Rock, and of those of Texas to the protecting flag of Gen. Banks, proves that the dissolution of the Rebel Confederacy is already well begun. Copperhead demonstrations in Congress may impede, but will hardly arrest it.

THE REBEL MESSAGE.

Though it is apparent to the most superficial observer that the author of this document takes a gloomy view of the condition of the "Confederacy," it would be a gross error to assume that he and his co-conspirators do not intend to fight out their insane contest to the last. The contrary opinion was one of the fatal delusions entertained in the early stages of the struggle, by some of those who gave shape to the policy of the Federal Government. Seeing the desperate nature of the attempt, they were slow to believe that any considerable portion of the South could be sincere in the avowed belief that they could break up the Union by force of arms, and erect an independent nation upon its ruins, with Negro Slavery for its chief corner-stone. But time and events have proved that those of us who entertained the opposite opinion concerning the nature of the conflict that was before us had more carefully studied the character of the men who had initiated this parricidal scheme. No person was competent to form a sound judgment on this question who had not spent years in analyzing the elements which vivified and the purposes which stimulated the Negro Propagandists of the school of Calhoun. Their design to make Slavery the dominating power of the Republic was disclosed to observant minds as long ago as the Missouri controversy. Quietly disseminated during the ten years that followed their victory in this celebrated trial of strength with the Free States, this design was more openly avowed at the epoch of South Carolina Nullification. The keen eye of Gen. Jackson discovered that the attempt to charge this agitation to an oppressive tariff was sheer hypocrisy; and it subsequently appeared that he had written a letter in the midst of the Convention, in which he declared that the opposition to the tariff was a pretext, while the real grievance was the hostility of the North to the principles and policy of the Slavery Propagandists. It is now apparent to everybody, and was all along plain to those who made Southern ideas and institutions their study, that for thirty years the apostles of the Propaganda were steadily working to incorporate into the political and judicial structure of the country the principles which ultimately cropped out in the Lecompton Constitution and the Dred Scott decision—principles that made the right to hold property in man superior to all other rights, and which rights might be exercised under Federal protection in every State of the Union. The conspirators had marvelous success in propagating their atrocious ideas during the administrations of Van Buren, Tyler, Polk, Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan. The defection of Wright, Benton, Dix, Rantoul, and their compeers, in 1848, excited their apprehensions, but they persevered, and were rewarded for their constancy by the ripe rascalities that disgraced the eras of 1850, 1854, and 1858, in the shape of the Fugitive Slave law, the Kansas outrages, and the Lecompton swindle. But, when Douglas, whom they had so implicitly trusted and so long followed, turned his back upon them and repudiated their cherished doctrines; and, more especially, when Abraham Lincoln assumed the Executive Chair, and the law-giver passed from beneath the feet of their Ebony Idol, they resorted to the dernier remedy which they had always contemplated in such a contingency—a dissolution of the Union, and the establishment of a Slaveholding Empire in one half the States of the old Republic.

The present war, therefore, is only the natural and inevitable *dénouement* of the plot which these conspirators hatched more than forty years ago, when they resolved to bring Missouri into the Union as a Slave State.

Now, whoever supposes that these Rebel chiefs are going to abandon their long-cherished schemes because they have met with reverses in the field, or because their finances are disordered, or their trade destroyed, or their agriculture blasted, or their plantations ravaged, or their towns demolished, or their "poor white trash" swept away by the besom of war, or even their black slaves scattered broadcast through the land, is mistaken in the men with whom our Government is dealing. They have set their lives upon a cast, and they will stand the hazard of the die. They will fight on until they are subjugated by our armies, or driven into exile by an insurrection of their own deluded followers. The Message of Davis, though it discloses a sad condition of the affairs of the "Confederacy," military, monetary, political, and social, gives no grounds for hope that the Rebellion is to terminate in any other mode than that we have mentioned. Force, force, force is alone adequate to the work of overthrowing the chiefs in this diabolical conspiracy. It may be the power of Federal armies. It may be domestic violence. It is likely to be a combination of both.

But, while the Message declares that the only hope of the conspirators lies in "the vigor of their resistance," yet it discloses such a paucity of means for perpetuating that resistance, that the end cannot be far off. Malignity and mendacity will not furnish men to fill up wasting armies, nor money to replenish an empty treasury. Even the courage inspired by desperation cannot long contend against preponderating numbers. Nor can indomitable pride and tireless persistency always bear up against the frowns of fortune and the decrees of fate. Having abandoned political chicane, through which they had so constantly won, and taken up the sword in one of the worst of causes, it is written in the Divine economy that the conspirators shall perish by the weapon they have invoked.

REBEL FINANCES.

The condition and the necessities of the Rebel Treasury are set forth in the report of Mr. Memminger, and are even a better evidence of the straits to which the Rebellion is reduced than the Message of Mr. Jefferson Davis. The expenditures from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1863, are stated at $519,368,559, of which $377,988,244 were for the War Department. The nominal receipts during the same period were $601,522,893 12, but of this amount $391,623,530 were fresh issues of Treasury Notes, while from taxes but $4,128,968 97, and from customs but $934,798 68 were received. The funded public debt is $292,915,620; the unfunded $701,447,519; and to the latter amount must be added $100,000,000 for the two months not included in the schedules. In other words, the Rebel currency in circulation reaches now the enormous sum of $801,447,519, which Mr. Memminger admits is five times its proper dimensions. The estimates for the ensuing year, added to the balances of appropriations not drawn, are $1,427,448,778; and Mr. Memminger has to address himself to the task of suggesting ways and means by which that amount is to be raised.

The plan submitted by which alone it is deemed possible to protract the life of the Rebellion amounts practically to nothing than repudiation of the present currency, and the raising of a forced loan. It is admitted that no ordinary form of taxation or loan is available, and the proposed financial scheme accordingly takes the shape of general bankruptcy and plunder. The scheme is as follows: A loan of $1,000,000,000—the amount to be enlarged at will—is to be authorized by the Rebel Congress, and this loan is to be the means, in the first place, of effecting that reduction in the volume of the currency, without which Mr. Memminger does not hesitate to say the whole concern must go to pieces. But how to induce the people to exchange the present currency, which will purchase commodities at the rate of six or eight cents to the dollar in specie, for bonds which would purchase nothing? The expedient is simply to provide that all notes not exchanged for the new loan on or before April 1 shall cease to be receivable as currency or for dues to the Government. To the extent of $200,000,000 their place is to be supplied by a new issue of notes, and thereafter the amount of the currency is not to be increased.

In order further to stimulate the success of the $1,000,000,000 loan a tax of 5 per cent *ad valorem* is laid upon all property in the Rebel States, payable in coin or in coupons of the loan. Not an *income* tax of 5 per cent, but a twentieth of total *property* of the people of the States that own the sway of Jefferson Davis is demanded. And in default of success in raising this loan, reducing the currency, and establishing their finances on a sound basis, it is admitted that the days of the Rebellion are numbered: "The army can neither be paid, clothed, nor fed; arms and munitions of war can no longer be supplied; the officers of the Government cannot be supported, and the country must succumb," says Mr. Memminger.

It is needless to examine the details or expose the financial unsoundness of a scheme which by the admission of its advocates has no apology but necessity, and no hope of success but in compulsion. In the present condition of the Rebellious States, it is not probable that the whole income of the year will average five per cent on the whole amount of their remaining property, for in this property is included both land and slaves, heretofore supposed to be exempt from taxation. Assuming that the collection of such a tax is impossible by ordinary methods, the Rebel Government has the sole remaining resource of forcibly levying on whatever property it may require for the subsistence of its armies; and when that point is reached the end of the Rebellion is not far.

We have private advices that the Secessionists at Havana—acting, doubtless, upon private advices from Dixie—have given over the Rebel cause as past praying for. One of them, we learn, who had about $400,000 of Confederate funds in his hands, has confiscated the whole to the replenishment of his private exchequer, and fled therewith to parts unknown. It was understood there that the break-up of the concern must be quite near at hand.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS....First Session.

HOUSE, Dec. 10.—Notice was given of a bill to facilitate the payment of bounties due on account of deceased soldiers. Mr. Pendleton gave notice of a bill to admit Members of the Cabinet to the Senate and House with the right to debate matters touching their several departments. The Treasury Report was handed in. The House elected a Chaplain; the Rev. Wm. H. Channing, Unitarian, had 80 votes; Bishop Hopkins of Vermont, author of a Bible Defense of Slavery, had 55; Mr. Channing was declared elected. Adjourned to Monday.

SENATE, Dec. 14.—Assessors of Internal Revenue asked for more pay. Notice was given of a bill to exempt clergymen from conscription. The Senate then elected Standing Committees for the session. B. Gratz Brown of Mo., was qualified. Mr. Wilson offered a resolution of thanks to Gen. Hooker, and officers and men of the Potomac Army, for the skill, energy, and endurance, which first covered Washington and Baltimore from the meditated blow of the army of the Rebels; and to Gen. Meade and his officers and soldiers, for the skill and heroic valor which at Gettysburg repulsed, defeated, and drove back, beyond the Rappahannock, the veteran army of the Rebellion. The resolution was referred to the Military Committee. A similar resolution took the same course concerning Gen. Banks. The joint resolution from the House, voting a gold medal and the thanks of Congress to General Grant, was referred to the Military Committee. A bill was introduced to amend the Enrollment act, so as to strike out the $300 commutation, and to increase the pay of the rank and file of the Army about 50 per cent. Referred to Military Committee. Mr. Grimes introduced his bill to encourage enlistments in the naval service, and give credit for the same on the military quotas of the respective States. Mr. Wilson presented resolutions from the Massachusetts Legislature in favor of an increase of pay to the soldiers. Mr. Hale introduced a bill more effectually to repress the Rebellion by prohibiting the holding in servitude of any persons in the country except on contract. Mr. Wilson introduced his bill to increase the bounties to volunteers, and it was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

HOUSE.—The first business was the announcement by the Speaker of the Standing Committees. F. Wood then introduced a resolution providing for the appointment of Commissioners to Richmond, with the view of arranging for the termination of the war. His resolve was laid on the table by 98 to 59. A joint resolution to authorize the President to give Great Britain the notice required for the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty of June 5, 1854, was sent to the Committee on Commerce. Mr. Ward introduced a joint resolution for the appointment of Commissioners to negotiate a new treaty of reciprocity with Great Britain for the British provinces of North America, based on the true principles of reciprocity, which was referred to the same Committee. Mr. Elliot introduced a bill to establish a Bureau of Emancipation, which was referred to a Select Committee. Mr. Dawes introduced a bill providing for the election of Representatives from the States of Tennessee and Louisiana, which went to the Committee on Elections. Mr. Stevens introduced a bill granting public lands in aid of the People's Pacific Railroad Company by the northern route, which went to a Select Committee. Mr. Stevens introduced a bill to fix the time for holding elections for Representatives to Congress, and to enable soldiers to vote for State officers. Bills were introduced and referred, enabling Colorado and Nebraska to form State Governments and provide for their admission into the Union, and providing a temporary Government for the Territory of Montana. Mr. Yeaman introduced a bill for the restoration of civil authority in such States as are not under the control of the Rebellion. Several bills were introduced, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, to repeal the Fugitive Slave Law, and to amend the Constitution so as to abolish Slavery in all the States. Mr. Lovejoy introduced a bill providing that all persons held to Slavery in the States and Territories shall be declared free: all persons so declared free shall be protected the same as white men now are by the Constitution; any one seizing such freed persons to reduce them to Slavery shall be declared guilty of high misdemeanor, and, on conviction, punished. Also, a bill to protect freedmen and to provide for punishing those who attempt to enslave them. Mr. Arnold introduced a bill to repeal so much of the Enrollment act as authorizes the discharge of persons drafted on payment of $300. Also, a bill to aid the President to carry out the Emancipation Proclamation, and prohibiting the reenslavement of persons designated therein. Mr. Washburne introduced a bill reviving the grade of Lieutenant-General, and authorizing the President to confer it on any officer not below the grade of Major-General, who has distinguished himself by courage and skill, &c., and who, being thus commissioned, may be authorized to command the armies of the United States. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to amend the Constitution, declaring Slavery incompatible with Free Government, and is therefore prohibited in the United States, and servitude is prohibited save for the punishment of crimes; and Congress shall have power to enforce this provision by appropriate legislation. Mr. Kasson introduced a bill to revise and codify the laws relating to the Post-Office Department. The Military Committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of increasing the pay of privates in the army to $25 per month, and adding to the pay of commissioned and non-commissioned officers and musicians forty per cent. Mr. Julian introduced a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to report a bill for the repeal of the third and fourth sections of the act respecting fugitives from justice and persons escaping from the service of their masters, and the act to amend and explanatory of the aforesaid act. Laid on the table, 82 to 74. Mr. Cox offered a resolution for the publication of Gen. McClellan's report. Mr. Lovejoy offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of placing in any bill or bills they may report all the regularly enlisted soldiers on a footing as to pay without distinction of color. Mr. Cox moved to lay the resolution on the table, but this was not agreed to. The resolution was then passed. Mr. Mallory offered a resolution that, the Senate concurring, when the two Houses adjourn on Friday next, it be to Wednesday, the 6th day of January. Passed, 90 against 44. Adjourned.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

SENATE COMMITTEES.

FOREIGN RELATIONS—Sumner, Chairman; Foster, Doolittle, Harris, Johnson, McDougall.
FINANCE—Fessenden, Chairman; Howe, Cowan, Clark, Van Winkle, Conness.
COMMERCE—Chandler, Chairman; Morrill, Ten Eyck, Morgan, Sprague, Bowden, Saulsbury.
AGRICULTURE—Sherman, Chairman; Harlan, Wilson, Lane (Kansas), Powell.
MILITARY AFFAIRS AND THE MILITIA—Wilson, Chairman; Lane (Ind.), Howard, Nesmith, Morgan, Sprague, Brown.
NAVAL AFFAIRS—Hale, Chairman; Anthony, Willey, Ramsey, Harding, Hicks.
JUDICIARY—Trumbull, Chairman; Foster, Ten Eyck, Harris, Howard, Bayard, Powell.
POST-OFFICES AND POST ROADS—Collamer, Chairman; Dixon, Ramsey, Henderson, Bowden, Conness, Buckalew.
PUBLIC LANDS—Harlan, Chairman; Pomeroy, Foot, Harding, Carlile, Hendricks, Wright.
PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS—Harris, Chairman; Sumner, Howard, Bayard, McDougall.
INDIAN AFFAIRS—Doolittle, Chairman; Williamson, Lane (Kansas), Harlan, Nesmith, Brown, Buckalew.
PENSIONS—Foster, Chairman; Lane (Ind.), Pomeroy, Bowden, Van Winkle, Saulsbury, Buckalew.
REVOLUTIONARY CLAIMS—Wilkinson, Chairman; Chandler, Wilson, Nesmith, Wright.
CLAIMS—Clark, Chairman; Howe, Pomeroy, Anthony, Morrill, Hicks, Hendricks.
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—Grimes, Chairman; Dixon, Morrill, Wade, Willey, Henderson, Richardson.
PATENTS AND THE PATENT OFFICE—Cowan, Chairman; Ten Eyck, Sherman, Ramsay, Saulsbury.
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS—Foot, Chairman; Trumbull, Grimes, Henderson, Hendricks.
TERRITORIES—Wade, Chairman; Wilkinson, Hale, Lane (Kansas), Carlile, Davis (Mo.), Richardson.
AUDIT AND CONTROL THE CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—Dixon, Chairman; Clark, Harding.
ENGROSSED BILLS—Lane (Ind.), Chairman; Sumner, Willey.
ON PRINTING—Anthony, Chairman; Morgan, Powell.
ON ENROLLED BILLS—Howe, Chairman; Cowan, Hicks.
ON THE LIBRARY—Collamer, Chairman; Fessenden, Johnson.

HOUSE COMMITTEES.

ELECTIONS—Dawes (Massachusetts), Voorhees (Indiana), Baxter (Vermont), G. Clay Smith (Kentucky), Ganson (New-York), Schofield (Pennsylvania), Smithers (Delaware), Upson (Michigan), Brown (Wisconsin).
WAYS AND MEANS—Stevens (Pa.), Morrill (Vt.), Pendleton (Ohio), Fenton (N. Y.), Hooper (Mass.), Mallory (Ky.), Blow (Mo.), Kasson (Iowa), Stebbins (N. Y.)
CLAIMS—Hale (Pa.), Holman (Ind.), Webster (Md.), Ashley (Ohio), W. J. Allen (Ill.), Hotchkiss (N. Y.), Brown (W. Va.), Pruyn (N. Y.), Long (Ohio).
COMMERCE—Washburne (Illinois), Eliot (Massachusetts), Ward (New-York), Dixon (Rhode Island), Cresswell (Maryland), Perry (New-Jersey), O'Neal (Pennsylvania), Longyear (Michigan), Hutchins (Ohio).
PUBLIC LANDS—Julian (Indiana), English (Connecticut), Higby (California), Allison (Iowa), Wadsworth (Kentucky), Fernando Wood (New-York), Driggs (Michigan), Miller (New-York).
POST-OFFICES AND POST ROADS—Alley (Mass.), Norton (Ill.), Harding (Ky.), Donnelly (Minn.), Blaine (Me.), Brooks (N. Y.), Cole (Cal.), Grinnell (Iowa), Fink (Ohio).
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—Lovejoy (Ill.), Dumont (Ind.), Steele (N. Y.), Anderson (Ky.), Patterson (N. H.), Morris (Ohio), Davis (N. Y.), Tracy (Pa.), Wheeler (Wis.)
JUDICIARY—Wilson (Iowa), Boutwell (Mass.), Kernan (N. Y.), Thomas (Md.), Williams (Pa.), King (Mo.), Woodbridge (Vt.), Morris (N. Y.), Bliss (Ohio).
REVOLUTIONARY CLAIMS—Price (Iowa), Stiles (Pennsylvania), Norton (Illinois), Kalbfleisch (New-York), Ames (Mass.), Eldridge (Wis.), Dumont (Ind.), Johnson (Ohio), Scott (Mo.)
PUBLIC EXPENDITURES—Hulburd (N. Y.), Broomall (Pa.), Julian (Ind.), Lazear, (Pa.), Blair (W. Va.), Rollins (N. H.), Rogers (N. J.), Harris (Ill.)
PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS—Thayer (Pa.), Hotchkiss (N. Y.), Knapp (Ill.), Gooch (Mass.), O'Neill (O.), Winfield (N. Y.), Eckley (Ohio), Sweat (Me.), Harrington (Ind.)
MANUFACTURES—Moorhead (Pa.), Kellogg (N. Y.), Ancona (Pa.), Arnold (Ill.), Freeman Clarke (N. Y.), Chilton A. White (Ohio), Ames (Mass.), Starr (N. J.), Harris (Md.)
AGRICULTURE—Clay (Ky.), Whaley (Va.), Baily (Pa.), Hurlburd (N. Y.), Law (Ind.), Kelley (Pa.), Perham (Me.), Baldwin (Mich.), Middleton (N. J.).
INDIAN AFFAIRS.—Windom (Minn.), McIndoe (Wis.), Jas. C. Allen (Ill.), McBride (Oregon), Wilder (Kansas), Nelson (N. Y.), Boyd (Mo.), Shannon (Cal.), Dennison (Pa.).
MILITARY AFFAIRS.—Schenck (Ohio), Farnsworth (Ill.), Yeaman (Ky.), Garfield (Ohio), Loan (Mo.), Odell (N. Y.), Deming (Conn.), Kellogg (Mich.), McAllister (Pa.)
ON MILITIA—Van Valkenburgh (N. Y.), Smith (Ky.), Ancona (Pa.), Webster (Md.), Kellogg (N. Y.), Morrison (Ill.), Blaine (Me.), Cobb (Wis.), McKinney (Ohio).
NAVAL AFFAIRS—Rice (Mass.), Moorhead (Penn.), Griswold (N. Y.), Pike (Maine), Kelley (Penn.), Rollins (Missouri), Spaulding (Ohio), Brandegee (Conn.), Edgerton (Ind.).
FOREIGN AFFAIRS—H. Winter Davis (Md.), Gooch (Mass.), Cox (Ohio), Pomeroy (N. Y.), Orth (Ind.), Randall (Ky.), Dawson (Penn.), Hubbard (Iowa), Stuart (Ill.).
TERRITORIES—Ashley (Ohio), Beaman (Mich.), Cravens (Ind.), Lovejoy (Ill.), Rice (Me.), Grider (Ky.), Marvin (N. Y.), McClurg (Mo.), Johnson (Pa.)
REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONS—Littlejohn (N. Y.), Law (Ind.), McIndoe (Wis.), Herrick (N. Y.), Spaulding (Ohio), Eden (Ill.), Clay (Ky.), Marcy (N. H.), Broth (Pa.).
INVALID PENSIONS—Whaley (W. Va.), Benjamin Wood (N. Y.), Perham (Me.), McDowell (Ia.), Washburne (Mass.), Miller (Pa.), Freeman Clarke (N. Y.), Ross (Ill.), Cresswell (Md.).
ROADS AND CANALS.—Arnold (Ill.), Littlejohn (N. Y.), Hall (Mo.), Beaman (Mich.), Washburne (Mass.), Ward (N. Y.), Eckley (Ohio), Allison (Iowa), Strouse (Penn.)
PATENTS.—Jenckes (R. I.), Leonard Myers (Penn.), Noble (Ohio), Hubbard (Conn.), Chanler (N.Y.)
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.—Rice (Me.), Blair (W. Va.), Randall (Penn.), Starr (N. J.), Radford (N. Y.)
REVISED AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS.—Boyd (Mo.), Nelson (N. Y.), McKinney (Ohio), Upson (Mich.), J. C. Allen (Ill.)
MILEAGE.—Robinson (Ill.), Frank (N. Y.), Amos Myers (Penn.), Benjamin Wood (N. Y.), J. W. White (Ohio.)
ACCOUNTS—Rollins (N. H.), Broomall (Pa.), Steele (N. J.), A. W. Clarke (N. Y.), Eden (Ill.)
EXPENDITURES OF STATE DEPARTMENT—Pike (Me.), Robinson (Ill.), Van Valkenburgh (N. Y.), Miller (Pa.), English (Conn.)
EXPENDITURES OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT—Amos Myers (Pa.), Kalbfleisch (N. Y.), J. W. White (Ohio), Eliot (Mass.), Patterson (N. H.)
EXPENDITURES OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT—Deming (Conn.), Steele (N. Y.), Harris (Ill.), Sloan (Wis.), Schofield (Pa.)
EXPENDITURES OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT—Baxter (Vt.), Higby (Cal.), Herrick (N. Y.), Marcy (N. H.), Tracy (Pa.)
EXPENDITURES OF THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT—Pomeroy (N. Y.), C. A. White (Ohio), Leonard Myers (Pa.), Hall (Mo.), Hubbard (Conn.)
EXPENDITURES OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT—Shannon (Cal.), Middleton (N. J.), Coffroth (Pa.), Donnelly (Minn.), Baldwin (Mich.)
EXPENDITURES ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS—Longyear (Mich.), Lazear (Pa.), Baldwin (Mass.), Jamison (Ohio), Brandagee (Conn.)
LIBRARY—Frank (N. Y.), Washburne (Ill.), Wadsworth (Ky.)
PRINTING—A. W. Clark (N. Y.), Baldwin (Mass.)
ENROLLED BILLS—Cobb (Wis.), and Steele (N. J.)
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENROLLED BILLS—Cobb (Wis.), Steele (N. J.).

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.—Stevens (Pa.), Wilder (Kansas), Steele (N. Y.), Price (Iowa), Cole (Cal.), Noble (Ohio), Donnelly (Minn.), McBride (Oregon), Steele (N. J.), McClurg (Mo.), Ames (Mass.), Yeaman (Ky.), Sweat (Me.)
SELECT COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION.—Washburne (Ill.), Grinnell (Iowa), Law, (Ind.), Baldwin (Mass.), Rollins (Mo.), Elliot (Mass.), Kelley (Penn.), Knapp (Ill.), Orth (Ind.), Boyd (Mo.), Kalbfleisch (N. Y.), Cobb (Wis.), Anderson (Ky.), Middleton (N. J.)
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REBELLIOUS STATES.—H. Winter Davis (Md.), Gooch (Mass.), James C. Allen (Ill.), Ashley (Ohio), Fenton (N. Y.), Holman (Ind.), Smithers (Del.), Blow (Mo.), English (Conn.)

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING, ON THE PART OF THE SENATE—Mr. Anthony, Chairman; Morgan, Powell.
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENROLLED BILLS, ON THE PART OF THE SENATE—Howe, Chairman; Cowan, Hicks.
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY, ON THE PART OF THE SENATE—Collamer, Chairman; Fessenden, Johnson.

VOTE TO LAY ON THE TABLE FERNANDO WOOD'S PROPOSITION TO SEND PEACE COMMISSIONERS TO RICHMOND.

YEAS—Messrs. Alley, Allison, Anderson, Arnold, Ashley, Bailey, Baldwin, Baxter, Beaman, Blaine, Blair (West Va.), Blow, Boutwell, Boyd, Brandagee, Broomall, Brown (West Va.), Ambrose W. Clark, Freeman Clarke, Cobb, Cole, Cresswell, Davis (Md.), Deming, Dixon, Donnelly, Driggs, Dumont, Eckley, Eliot, Farnsworth, Fenton, Ganson, Garfield, Gooch, Grinnell, *Griswold*, Higby, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Hubbard (Iowa), Hubbard (Conn.), Calvin T. Hubbard, Jenckes, Julian, Kasson, Kellogg (Mich.), Kellogg (N. Y.), Loan, Longyear, Lovejoy, Marvin, McBride, McClurg, McIndoe, Miller (N. Y.), Morehead, Morrill, Morris (N. Y.), Amos Myers, Leonard Myers, Norton, O'Neil (Pa.), Orth, Patterson, Perham, Pike, Pomeroy, Price, Randall (Ky.), Rice (Mass.), Rice (Me.), Rollins (N. H.), Schenck, Scofield, Shannon, Sloan, Smith, Smithers, Spaulding, Stevens, Thayer, Thomas, Tracy, Upson, Van Valkenburg, *Elijah Ward*, Washburne (Ill.), Washburne (Me.), Whaley, Wheeler, Williams, Wilder, Wilson, Windom, Woodbridge, and Yeaman.

NAYS—Messrs. James C. Allen, Wm. J. Allen, Ancona, Baldwin, Bliss, Brooks, Chanler, CLAY, Coffroth, Cox, Cravens, Dawson, Dennison, Eden, Edgerton, Eldridge, English, Finck, GRIDER, HARDING, Harrington, Harris (Md.), Harris (Ill.), Herrick, Holman, Johnson (O.), Kernan, King, Knapp, Law, Lazear, Leblond, Long, MALLORY, Marcy, McDowell, Kinney, Miller (Pa.), Morris (O.), Nelson, Noble, Odell, O'Neill (O.), Pendleton, Robinson, Rollins (Mo.), Ross, Scott, Stebbins, Steele (N. Y.), Stewart, Sweat, Voorhies, WADSWORTH, Chilton N. White, Joseph W. White, Winfield, Fernando Wood.

[Three Democrats and one Border State man voted Yea; five Border State voted Nay.]

SENATE, Dec. 15.—Mr. Lane of Kansas introduced a bill to stop speculation in gold and exchange. It restricts sales to the seller's regular office, and demands delivery or full payment down on every transaction, under penalty of $1,000 to $10,000 fine, one half to the informer. A bill was offered granting land to a northern Pacific railway and telegraph. Another (laid over) to codify and simplify the public statutes. A thanks-to-Gen.-Burnside resolution was sent to the Military Committee. Another bill was to extend the time for States taking land for colleges. The Message was referred to the proper Committees. Garret Davis called up his resolutions concerning exchange of prisoners, and made an onslaught upon the Administration, denouncing its policy, and calling it the reign of Abraham the First. His speech was full of professions of hatred for Secession and Abolitionism, and of bitter denunciation of the policy of protecting black soldiers. Reverdy Johnson replied:

"That if the refusal of the Rebels to exchange colored men was the only obstacle, he would deem it proper that it should proceed, man for man, as far as it might. He should also provide for the remaining cases, by retaining in our hands a number of Rebel prisoners, and subjecting them to the treatment visited upon our colored soldiers in the South. He did not think, however, this alone prevented an exchange. His reply was to that portion of the remarks of Mr. Davis in which he was understood to assert that neither Congress nor the President had power to authorize the enlistment of persons of African descent into the armies of the United States. He called the attention of the Senate to the fact that the authority of Congress to suppress insurrection was the same as that to repel invasion, so that if colored troops could not be employed to suppress insurrection, neither could they be employed to repel foreign invasion; a proposition that no one could deny. The Constitution also confers upon Congress the power to raise armies. But of whom shall they be composed and how raised? Is there anything in the Constitution that requires them to be white men, or to be raised by voluntary enlistment? Nothing. [illegible] But again; the power to raise armies is coextensive with the power to provide a navy. Yet no national vessel to-day sails under our flag whose crew is not composed in greater or less proportions of colored men. Not one of the vessels that so gloriously upheld our flag in the last war with Great Britain was without colored men among her crew. The Senator contended that all this had been wrong, and our statesmen had been mistaken if the position of the Senator from Kentucky was correct. As to the power of the President, he called the attention of the Senate to the difference of language employed by the Constitution in defining the legislative and executive jurisdiction. While the grant of legislative authority proceeds by enumeration, it is not so with that of the executive. The Constitution simply declares that "the executive power shall be vested in the President of the United States of America," hence, some of our greatest statesmen have held that, by this single provision, all authority of an executive character is vested in the President. Among other duties, he must "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." This includes all laws, organic as well as legislative. Now, suppose insurrection should rear its horrid front, and Congress had omitted to provide the means for its suppression, might not the Executive call on the physical force of the country to volunteer its aid in executing the laws? and is he limited to the white men of the country in making the call? But complaint has been made that the President has employed slaves. Congress has given him authority to employ them, and no proposition denying this right can be maintained. The Senator proceeded to illustrate his case by another argument. It might be admitted, he thought, that in the eye of the Constitution slaves are property in those States where so held; but they are persons also. Representation in Congress is based on the fact that they are persons. Though slaves, they are men. They owe allegiance by birth, and though the Supreme Court has decided that, under the clause defining the jurisdiction of that court, they are not citizens, in relation to other clauses of the Constitution it may be far different. They have the protection of the Government, to a certain extent, at least, and why should they not contribute to its defense? As property, they may be taken for public use, on compensation to the owner being made. As to compensation, some complaints had been made, and justly, perhaps, as the Senator thought, as to the manner in which the law had been executed by some agents. This, however, should not induce him to lift his voice in the Senate, or his arm out of it, to weaken or embarrass the Government in its efforts to suppress rebellion. When the authority of the Government was restored to its full extent, then inquiry might, and would, be made into all such matters. As to the slave himself, compensation divested the owner of all his rights and conveyed them to the public; and he had never doubted that the employment of the slave in the military service of the country *ipso facto* emancipated him. It would be disgraceful if, after the employment of colored men to defend its existence, this Government should permit them to return to Slavery. He thanked God they never could be re-enslaved. It gave him pleasure to remember that when he formerly had the honor of occupying a seat on this floor, in 1847, he declared, in a debate upon the subject of Slavery, that it was wrong. As a system, morally, politically, and especially economically, Slavery was indefensible. The people of this country were rapidly becoming wiser on this subject."

Mr. Davis replied that the President had no power to raise men at all, and developed the favorite Secession doctrine of the helplessness of the Federal Government. (From our brief report we judge that Mr. Davis was in a high state of excitement.) Mr. Hale denounced the Kentucky Senator's charges as infamous. The discussion was stopped by referring the resolutions to the Military Committee. After Executive session, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—The President recommended John Rogers, who captured the Fingal, have thanks of Congress and be promoted. One of the soi-disant members from Louisiana (Mr. Cottman) sent in a resignation. As his name was not on the roll, the paper was not presented. The Ways and Means Committee reported a bill for the payment of the invalid and other pensions, and also a bill for the support of the Military Academy. Some debate ensued upon the reference of the President's Message, which went to the usual Committees, except so much as relates to the duty of the United States to guarantee to every State a republican form of government, and to those States in which the Government has been abrogated or overthrown, which was referred to a Select Committee of nine to report the bill necessary to carry into effect this duty. The seven additional Standing Committees, appointed under rule No. 102, were directed at once to examine into the state of the accounts and expenditures of the several Departments and report particularly, and said Committee have all the powers of Committees of Investigation. The resolution calling for Gen. McClellan's report was adopted.

SENATE, Dec. 16.—Mr. Wilson reported back a joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Major-General Grant and to the officers and men of his command, with a recommendation for its passage. Mr. Lane (Kan.) introduced a resolution of inquiry relative to the treatment by the Rebels of our Kansas prisoners. He made a statement that Capt. Brown of Osceola saw last Summer in one of the prisons of the South seven Kansas soldiers in irons, and he understood they were to be put to death, as others had been. Such had also been the course pursued by Quantrell and others in their raids in the vicinity of Kansas. Resolution adopted. Mr. Wilson reported the back pay and bounty bill with amendments. Mr. Sumner called up the resolution relative to the codification of the public laws. Adopted. The House joint resolution for the adjournment over the holidays being called up, it was lost by Yeas, 4; Nays, 25. A message was received from the President, communicating a statement, in answer to a resolution of the last Congress, from the Secretary of State. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—A resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the alleged inhumanity of the enemy toward our wounded soldiers on the field. A resolution was adopted declaring that the starving of our prisoners deserves the execration of the House and the consignment of the offenders to the condemnation of the Almighty. Numerous other resolutions were introduced, among them one by Mr. Rollins of Mo., declaring "That this House is prompted by just patriotism in favoring the zealous prosecution of the war, which was inaugurated by the disunionists; that it is the duty of the Government to prosecute the war until obedience to the Constitution and the Laws are secured, and that the war shall not be prosecuted for the purpose of conquest or subjugation." Mr. Lovejoy moved to lay the resolution on the table. The motion was lost by 50 to 114. Debate arising on the resolution, it was laid over. The House then resolved that when it adjourned on Wednesday, it be till the 5th of January. Adjourned.

FROM THE TEXAS EXPEDITION.

The Reported Occupation of the Entire Coast—Sabine Gulf, Galveston and Brownsville in our Possession—Positions Occupied by Rebel Forces.

ST. LOUIS, Thursday, Dec. 16, 1863.

A special dispatch to *The Democrat*, dated Fort Smith, Dec. 15, says:

A gentleman, named W. Taylor, arrived here to-day, having left Denton, Texas, 100 miles south of the Red River, on the 1st.

It was understood when he left that the Unionists had possession of the entire coast, including Sabine Gulf, Galveston and Brownsville, and that a Union force was ascending Red River and marching on Alexandria, where the the Rebel Gen. Taylor awaited their attack.

Magruder had ordered the circulation throughout the State of a pledge devoting the life, liberty and property of the citizens to the support of the Confederacy. Those refusing to sign it were considered enemies and traitors, and treated as such.

All negroes had been conscripted and promised their freedom. The State was fairly filled with slaves, stocks having been taken there by their Rebel owners from States further east and north.

The Rebel army in Texas was generally at posts on the outskirts of the State. Kirby Smith commanded the troops in Texas.

General Steele is at Dakinville, seven miles north of the Red River, near the State line, with a small force. Rebel pickets are at the crossing of the river, and line the road. Price is 18 miles south of Washington with 3,000 or 4,000 men.

The entire force of the enemy, under Marmaduke, Shelby and Cabelle are near him.

Quantrell has been in Texas four weeks. His command of 400 men are distributed in detachments in various counties in North-western [illegible] business seemed to be to act as spies on the people, hold the country in subjection, arrest deserters, kill suspected Union men, and plunder indiscriminately.

The Union sentiment in the State is strong, and would be expressed in immediate political action if the people could be protected by the Union army.

Four or five thousand young men are in the brush, awaiting the approach of the Union forces.

The people are held in subjection only by such parties as Quantrell in each county. Provisions and forage are plenty in the valley of the Red River, and in Eastern Texas.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

The Fight with Longstreet's Rear Guard—Our Troops Driven Half a Mile—Our Loss only Seventy-Five.

RUTLEDGE, Tenn., Monday, Dec. 14, 1863.

Between two and three o'clock this afternoon the forces of Longstreet turned upon and attacked our pursuing column of cavalry, under Gen. Shackleford.

Line of battle was formed at Bear Station, on the Cumberland Gap and Morristown Road, and a fight ensued which continued until nightfall, when the Rebels had succeeded in driving us about half a mile.

Cols. Woolford, Graham, Foster, and others, were engaged.

The musketry fire was very heavy.

Our loss, as far as I can ascertain, is about 75.

We have taken some prisoners belonging to the Rebel Gen. Gracie's brigade.

The whole movement was made with a well contrived plan to cut off and capture Gen. Shackleford and his command, and a heavy force of Rebel cavalry moved down the left bank of the Holston river, with the intention of crossing at Kealy's Ford, and coming in his rear.

This portion of the programme was checked by Gen. Ferrero, who sent the brigade of Gen. Humphreys to hold the ford. The Rebels fired across the river with artillery upon the brigade, but with little effect.

We expect a considerable fight to-morrow

ELMIRA FEMALE COLLEGE.—The Woman's Central Relief Association has just received an interesting testimonial of the purity and warmth of youthful hearts. The young ladies of the Elmira Female College voted to dispense with their Christmas festivities and appropriate the expense to the purchase of clothing and supplies for our suffering Union prisoners in Richmond. Money to the amount of $128 was thus expended, increased, it is estimated, to $150 by special discounts, &c. Their President, who writes that great enthusiasm prevailed among them, inclosed also $12 to be used by the association. This noble disinterestedness (for both young and old love the Christmas festival) must send a thrill of pride and pleasure to every parental heart whose child forms one of this self-denying band. It is worthy of note, because the relinquishment of Christmas sports when away from home is especially unselfish. It will, however, yield to them the sweetest compensation, for to love others better than ourselves makes daily life an altar of incense to God.

BULL'S HEAD.—The beef cattle market, which closed for the week on Tuesday at Forty-fourth street, showed a decline of price from the opening on Monday morning of from half to a whole cent a pound, net, and that the supply was quite too large for the demand. There are some interesting particulars in the report of the market, among which an account of a mammoth bullock, which is to be fed to the Brooklyn beef-eaters at Christmas. The report shows the receipt of 5,887 beeves this week, 12,890 sheep, and 44,858 swine, a supply that does not indicate famine as very imminent.

Miss Evans, the young Welsh lady who has been lecturing on Temperance, sends to THE TRIBUNE Office the sum of $100 for the Sanitary Commission. This sum is the proceeds of the sale of her photograph likeness at her meetings. She hopes in this way to raise a thousand dollars for the benefit of our soldiers.

FROM EUROPE.

By the arrival of the Etna, from Liverpool, Nov. 25, via Queenstown, Nov. 26, and the Bremen, from Southampton, Nov. 15. We have news from Europe to the latter date.

A semi-official contradiction is at length given to the report that Lord Russell had resigned, or was about to resign, the Secretaryship of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright addressed a large meeting at Rochdale on Nov. 24. Mr. Cobden passed in review the leading foreign questions of the day, remarking with reference to the American war that he never had believed—"and he believed now less than ever"—that he or any of those who heard him would "ever live to see two separate nations within the confines of the present United States." The greater part of Mr. Bright's speech was devoted to the question of parliamentary reform.

The English Government has definitely refused to attend the proposed Congress. The semi-official journals of Paris assure us that all the continental Powers, with the single exception of Austria, have "acceded in principle" to the Emperor Napoleon's proposal, and that the Emperor of Russia's reply is "conceived in very conciliatory and courteous terms." Nevertheless, it is stated that the Emperor Alexander demands a preliminary "programme" of the subjects which the Congress is to discuss, and the powers which it is to exercise.

Regarding the Schleswig-Holstein question we learn that the officials of the Superior Court of Appeal for Holstein have unanimously resolved to refuse taking the oath of allegiance to the new King. Several more German Governments have decided to recognize the Prince of Augustenburg. Meetings are being held in all the large German cities to call upon the Governments to support the claims of the Prince. In the Prussian Lower Chamber two members of name and influence proposed, on behalf of the Liberal fractions, a resolution declaring that the honor and interests of Germany demand that all the German States should support the rights of the Hereditary Prince Frederick to the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

A dispatch from Hong Kong, dated the 26th October, and apparently brought by the French mail steamer to Suez, states that a French officer had been murdered by the Japanese, that reparation was immediately demanded, and that "war by the combined French and English forces was generally expected."

The Canada, from Liverpool Nov. 28, via Queenstown Nov. 29, arrived at Halifax on Friday, bringing two days' later European news.

The Rebel steamers Georgia and Rappahannock had arrived in French ports. The Rappahannock was seized by the French authorities, but subsequently released. She is said to be one of four steamers recently sold by the British Government and which are now fitting out for the Rebel service.

Thanksgiving Day was generally observed by the Americans in London. A grand banquet was given at St. James's Hall under the Presidency of Robert J. Walker. Mr. Adams was present, and delivered a speech.

The replies of Russia and Switzerland to Napoleon's invitation to a European Congress have been delivered. Switzerland accepts the invitation. It is feared that Russia demands that the programme of the Congress be drawn up. The reply of Earl Russell is not giving the expected satisfaction.

It is reported that the Committee of the Federal Diet of Germany have decided to propose the immediate adoption of the Federal execution in Holstein. The Wurtemburg Government likewise urges the occupation of Holstein. The Diet has refused to receive the Embassador of the new King of Denmark. Prussia has 35,000 men ready to march. The Chamber of Seen and of Hesse Darmstadt have unanimously passed resolutions in favor of recognizing the Prince of Augustenburg as Duke of Schleswig Holstein.

[illegible] American [illegible] who had joined the Chinese Rebels, has given himself up to the Imperial troops, having previously been pardoned by the American Consul.

Commercial Intelligence.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 28.—COTTON—The Brokers' Circular reports the sales of the week at 75,000 bales, of which 31,000 were to speculators and 16,000 to exporters. The market closed buoyant at an advance of ¼d. for American and 1@1½d. for Egyptian and Surats. The sales on Friday were 15,000 bales, including 8,000 to speculators and exporters, the market closing buoyant and a shade higher.

The authorized quotations are as follows:

	Fair.	Middling.
Orleans	Nominal.	28d.
Mobile	Nominal.	27¾d.
Uplands	Nominal.	27¾d.

The stock in port is estimated at 250,000 bales, of which [illegible] are American.

TRADE REPORT.—In the Manchester market prices are still advancing, but the rise checks business.

BREADSTUFFS are steady. Richardson, Spence & Co., and Wakefield, Nash & Co. report: Flour quiet and steady. Wheat [illegible] Winter Red, 9/6@9/9. Corn quiet; mixed, 29/@29/3; White, 30/.

PROVISIONS are quiet but steady. Beef quiet and steady. Pork quiet. Bacon inactive at 1/ decline, chiefly on the inferior qualities. Butter firm. Lard firmer, and 6d. higher. Tallow easier.

PRODUCE—The Brokers' Circular reports Ashes quiet and steady. Sugar active and 1/@1/6 higher. Coffee tends downward and prices are 1/ lower. Rice—Sales small. Linseed [illegible]. Linseed Oil inactive. Cod Oil tends downward; sales at 5s. Rosin dull at 30/ for common. Spirits Turpentine declining.

[illegible], English & Brandon report Petroleum dull at 1/9@1/9 for refined, and £15 5/5 for Crude.

LONDON MARKETS—Barings' Circular reports: Wheat firmer, and 1/ higher. Flour firmer. Iron steady. Sugar still advancing, and prices 1/ higher. Coffee steady. Rice firmer. Tea quiet. Tallow dull. Spirits Turpentine still declining. Petroleum quiet at 1/11 for refined, and £17 for Crude. Sperm Oil is quiet and steady. Cod Oil, £53. Linseed Oil still declining; sales at 39/.

Oates & Todd report PROVISIONS quiet and steady, except Lard, which tends downward. Rosin quiet and steady.

AMERICAN SECURITIES are inactive and most descriptions nominal. Illinois Central Shares, 23 discount; U. S. 6s, 60.

Consols closed on Friday at 92¼@92⅜ for Money.

The Bullion in the Bank has decreased £51,000.

HAVRE MARKET (week ending Nov. 27).—Cotton—Sales of 15,500 bales; market steady, and a trifle higher, especially to arrive. New-Orleans tres ordinaire 285f.; do. bas 270f. Stock 28,400 bales, of which 4,250 are American.

LATEST.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 28, Evening.—COTTON—Sales to-day of 15,000 bales, including 8,000 to speculators and exporters, the market closing buoyant at a further advance of ¼d.

BREADSTUFFS steady. Corn firm, and 3d. higher; Mixed, 29/6.

PROVISIONS steady. Tallow dull, and 6d. lower.

PRODUCE—Sugar still advancing.

PETROLEUM very dull.

LONDON, Nov. 28—Evening.—Consols for money, 92¼@92⅜.

Illinois Central shares, 24@22 discount. Erie shares, 63@65.

Gen. Grant on the Corner-Stone of the Rebellion.

The following extract of a private letter of Gen. Grant to the Hon. E. B. Washburne, dated Aug. 30, 1863, sets at rest the question of veracity raised by The Herald with Senator Wilson, who gave the substance without giving the exact language of it in a recent speech:

"The people of the North need not quarrel over the institution of Slavery. What Vice-President Stevens acknowledges as the corner-stone of the Confederacy is already knocked out. Slavery is already dead, and cannot be resurrected. It would take a standing army to maintain Slavery in the South if we were to make peace to-day guaranteeing to the South all their former constitutional privileges. I never was an Abolitionist, not even what would be called Anti-Slavery, but I try to judge fairly and honestly, and it became patent to my mind early in the Rebellion that the North and South could never live at peace with each other except as one nation, and that without Slavery. As anxious as I am to see peace established, I would not, therefore, be willing to see any settlement until this question is forever settled."

Capt. Albert M. Gammell of the 11th Massachusetts Regiment, and his wife, were instantly killed at the crossing near Chelsea Station, on the 16th inst., by the Eastern Railroad train coming in collision with their carriage. Capt. G. arrived home on the 14th, on a brief furlough. He was a gallant and meritorious officer.

The latest news of the Chesapeake is that she was in Mahone Bay, near Chester, N. S. (about 40 miles west of Halifax.) Our Consul at Halifax wants persons sent on to identify the pirates, although he says nothing about the taking of the boat. The Acacia left Portland with such persons on Tuesday night.

Professor Hodge has taken a survey of the Union Pacific Railroad, and reports that there are easy grades through Cheyenne Pass and abundant coal and iron ore on the eastern slope of Black Hills six hundred miles due west from Omaha.

The Prohibition of Slavery.

The following is the act, of which Mr. Wilson of Iowa gave notice on Monday:

JOINT RESOLUTION submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States:

Be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled (two-thirds of both Houses concurring), That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

ARTICLE 13—SEC. 1. Slavery, being incompatible with free Government, is forever prohibited in the United States, and involuntary servitude shall be permitted only as a punishment for crime.

SEC. 2. Congress shall have full power to enforce the foregoing section of this article by appropriate legislation.

Amos Reed, acting Governor of Utah, delivered his annual address on the 14th inst. He congratulates the people on the abundant harvest, general prosperity, richness of the mines, and peace with the Indians. He recommends the adoption of the California mining laws, and immediate preparation for the reception of a large emigration.

The bill of Senator Lane of Indiana, relative to the law of July, 1861, to define and punish treason, and the 24th section of the act of March, 1863, for enrolling the militia, proposes to punish the offenses named as the court may determine, not exceeding a fine of $5,000, or imprisonment with or without hard labor, or by both fine and imprisonment.

The steamer Minna, blockade runner, was captured by the U. S. supply steamer Circassian on the 9th inst. The Minna is 210 feet long and over 900 tuns burden, laden with rifles, powder, quinine, liquors, agricultural tools, hardware, &c.; also a fine marine engine.

COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange—Dec. 16.

10,000 U. S. 6s '81 Reg.	104¼	100 Harlem Railroad	90½
2,500 U. S. 6s '81 Coup. cL.	106¼	150 do.	90½
1,000 U. S. 6s 5-20s Coup.	101	200 Michigan Central RR.	127½
6,000 U. S. 6s '65 Coupon.	125	200 do.	127½
10,000 Treas. Notes 7 3-10 Oct. & April.	106½	100 do. s30	127½
		600 do.	128
5,000 U. S. 6s 1-yr Cer. new	99½	100 do. b10	128
40,000 do.	99	300 Illinois Central Scrip.	118½
20,000 Tennessee 6s '90	59	800 do.	118
4,000 Missouri State 6s	66	800 Cleve. & Pittsb. RR.	109
500 California 7s	125	300 do.	109½
1,000 do.	122½	600 do.	109
5,000 Ohio & Miss. Cer.	35	2600 do.	109½
4,000 Ch., Bur. & Qy. 1st M.	122½	300 do. s30	108½
1,000 Tol. & Wab. 1st M. Ex.	101	500 do. s10	109
9,500 Pitts., Ft. W. & Ch. 3d	87½	200 do. b15	109¼
20 Bank of Commonw'th.	100½	100 Chicago & Alton RR.	81
20,000 American Gold	149½	1000 Gal. & Chi. R.R.	109
5,000 do.	149½	400 do.	109½
10,000 do.	149½	200 do. s10	109½
11 Harmony Fire Ins. Co.	125	150 do. b10	109
200 Canton Co. b10	33½	100 do. s10	109
50 Cumb. Coal Pref.	39	300 do. s30	108½
100 do. s15	39	100 do. s30	108½
100 do. s30	39	1900 Clev. & Tol. R.R.	119½
1400 do.	39½	300 do. s30	119½
200 do. s30	39½	200 do. b30	119
200 do. s60	39½	500 do. s30	118½
300 do.	39½	14 Chi. & R. I. Railroad	108
1600 do.	40	600 do.	108½
450 do. b15	39½	100 do. s30	108½
300 do.	39½	550 do.	108½
100 Quicksilver M. Co.	64	2300 do.	109
150 do.	63½	300 do. s60	109
300 American Coal Co.	83	200 do. s30	109
100 do.	84	450 do.	109½
100 Mariposa Mining Co.	34½	2200 do.	109½
100 do.	34	200 do. s60	109½
100 Pac. Mail Steam. Co.	217	2300 do. b10	109
100 do. b30	218½	1000 do. s30	110
300 N. Y. Cen. R. R.	132½	1500 do. s60	110
150 do.	132½	2000 do.	110
100 do. s10	132½	50 Chic. B. & Q. R. R.	115½
500 Erie Railway	106½	50 Mil. & P. du Ch. R. R.	64½
3200 do.	107	200 Toledo & Wab. R. R.	63
200 do. b4	107	500 Pitts., Ft. W. & Chic.	83½
500 do. b30	107½	600 do.	83½
200 do. b10	107	550 do.	83
200 do. b5	107	200 do. s30	83½
150 do. s10	107	800 do. b30	83½
100 do. s30	107	100 do. s10	83
800 do.	107½	100 do. b10	83½
500 Erie R. R. Pref. b30	103	300 Alton & T. H. R. R.	63
300 do.	102½	150 do.	63½
150 do.	102½	1200 do.	65
100 Hudson River R. R.	124	400 Chic. & N. W. R. s10	46
15 do.	123½	300 do.	46
50 do.	123½	550 do.	46½
300 Reading Railroad	119½	100 do. b30	46½
200 do. b30	120	200 Chic. & Alton Pref.	93
600 do.	119½	13 Marietta & C. 1st Pref.	68
500 do. s10	119½	300 do.	69
200 do. b30	120	100 Miss. & Mo. RR.	35½

SECOND BOARD.

8,000 American Gold	149	250 Mich. Cent. R. R.	[illegible]
500 Cumb. Coal Pref.	39½	250 Mich. So. & N. I. R.R.	81
250 do.	39½	100 do.	80½
50 do. b30	40½	50 do.	80½
600 do. b15	40	100 do. b10	81
200 do. s15	39½	300 Ill. Cen. R.R. Scrip	116½
300 N. Y. Cent. R. R.	133	500 do.	116½
100 do.	133½	700 Cleve. & Pitts. R.R.	109
100 do. b10	133	400 do.	109½
500 do.	133	100 Gal. & Chic. R. R.	107½
100 do. b10	133	200 do.	107½
100 do. b10	133	200 do.	107½
250 Reading Railroad	120	400 do.	107
200 do.	120	1000 Cleve. & Tol. R. R.	119
200 do.	121	2700 Chi. & R. I. R. R.	111
500 Erie Railway	107½	200 do. s10	111
200 do. s15	107½	700 do. s60	111
100 do. b10	107½	100 do. b10	113
300 do.	107½	400 do.	111½
500 do.	107½	200 do.	111½
100 Erie Railway Pref.	102½	300 do.	111
50 do.	103	100 Mil. & P. du C. R.R. b15	58

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 16—P. M.

Gold opened at 149, and fell to 148⅞, but soon rallied to 149@149¼, where it stood nearly all day. The Scotia to-day takes out $452,187 93 in specie. Upon the street, stocks were strong. For Erie, 107¼ was paid; 108¼ for Rock Island, and 38⅞ for Cumberland Coal. At the Stock Exchange, Government stocks were stronger for all descriptions. Coupons of 1881, 109½@109¾; 7.30s, 106¼@106½ for April issue, and 98¼@98½ for Currency Certificates. Tennessee 6s were quoted at 59½@59¾; Missouri 6s, 66½@66¾; California 7s, 122@123; Canton Company, 33¾@34; Delaware and Hudson, 165@170; Cumberland, 39¼@39½, after selling at 40; Quicksilver Mining Company, 63½@63¾. Pacific Mail, 216½@217½; Central American Transit Company, 32 bid; New-York Central, 132¼@132½; Erie, 107@107¼; do. Preferred, 102¼@102½; Hudson River 123½@124; Harlem, 90½@91; Reading, 119¾@119¾; Michigan Central, 127½@128; do. Southern, 80½@80¾. Stocks opened firm, and at the Morning Session were in active demand at full prices for everything on the list. The feature of the day was Rock Island, which rose to 112 at one time, and was in demand upon either buyer's or seller's option by a leading broker. The rest of the market sympathized with Rock Island and Erie, and closed firm. The upward movement appears to be based upon the theory that the issue of interest-bearing notes by the Treasury Department will create an excess of currency, and, as a consequence, cheap money. The Winter business of railroads, which exceeds the estimates of managers, together with the near approach of dividend day, assists the upward movement. There is a new demand for Hudson River, and at 124 all that is offered is taken. Michigan Central is scarce among brokers, and deliveries are made with difficulty. The closing prices were: Gold, 150¼ bid; New-York Central, 133¼ bid; Erie, 108 bid; Harlem, 90½ bid; Michigan Central, 128 bid; Illinois Central, 119¼ bid; Cleveland and Pittsburg, 108½ bid; Toledo, 119¼ bid; Fort Wayne, 86 bid; Cumberland, 44½ bid; North-Western, 46 bid.

Freights are rather dull and somewhat heavy to Liverpool, but firm to London. To the former port the engagements are 21,000 bush Wheat at 5¼d., in bags; 500 bbls. Flour at 1s. 6d.; per neutral, 1,000 boxes Cheese at 25s.; 50 hhds. Tallow at 17s 6d; and to the latter per neutral packet, 500 bbls. Flour at 2s. 3d; 1,200 pkgs. Butter and Cheese at 27s. 6d.; and per steamer, 100 tcs. Beef at 6s. 6d.; 100 boxes Bacon at 40s., and 400 firkins Butter at 50s. The carrying rates are: To Liverpool, per American flag: Flour, 1s. 6d.; Wheat, 5½d.; Heavy Goods, 15s. Per Foreign flag: Flour, 1s 9d.@2s.; Wheat, 6d.; Heavy Goods, 20s. To London, per American flag: Flour, 2s.; Wheat, 6d.; Heavy Goods, 17s. 6d. Per Foreign flag: Flour, 2s. 4½d.; Wheat, 6½@7d.; Heavy Goods, 25s.

Money is quoted at 7 ⅌ cent, and the increased wants growing out of the new movement in stocks are readily supplied. There is a more confident feeling among lenders, and dividend-paying shares command money readily at legal rates.

Markets—CAREFULLY REPORTED FOR THE N. Y. TRIBUNE. WEDNESDAY, Dec. 16, 1863.

ASHES—The market is steady with a moderate inquiry; sales of 20 bbls. at $8 50 for Pots and $9 75 for Pearls.

BEESWAX is firm and in fair demand at 50c. cash.

COTTON—There was a good inquiry both from speculators and manufacturers, and the market ruled quite active and firm, with a tendency at the close toward an improvement; sales of 2,200 bales at 82c. for Middlings.

COFFEE is quiet, and we have only to note a sale of 100 bags St. Domingo at 30c. Prices, however, are without change of importance, though holders are very firm in their views. We quote Java at 40@41c.; Rio at 34@35c. for fair to prime, 33@34c. for ordinary, and 33½@34½c. for fair to good cargoes; Laguayra, 33@34c.; Maracaibo, 32½@34c.; Jamaica, 31½@32½c.; and St. Domingo at 30@31c., cash, and 21½@22c., cash, in bond.

COAL—The market for Foreign is very firm, the supply is limited, and we find it is much wanted, particularly Gas coals. The sales include 300 tons Ince Hall Cannel, to arrive, at $16; 100 do. Cardiff Steam at $11; 135 tuns Liverpool Cannel, $17; 300 tuns Scotch Cannel, $13; 135 do. Liverpool Cannel, $17; in lots; 690 tuns Scotch Steam at $7 50; 600 and 200 do. Gedley & Sointy steam at $12, cash. Domestic has arrived quite plenty, the stock is accumulating rapidly, and prices are lower by competition; sales from yard, $8 50@$10—some dealers ask higher rates than these, but do not sell freely.

COPPER—Refined Ingot is less animated, but prices are firm at 37½@39c. for Baltimore and Lake Superior, with further sales of 100,000 lbs. of the former for February delivery at or about 37½c., cash, here. New Sheathing is steady at 46c. ⅌ lb.; Yellow Metal at 34c., and Bolts and Braziers' at 46c.

CANDLES are steady and in limited request at 20@24c. for Adamantine, 35c. for Sperm, and 45c. for Patent.

DYEWOODS are in limited supply and the market is quite firm, especially for Logwood and Fustic; the sales are 100 tuns St. Domingo Logwood at about $23, and 50 do. Carthagena Fustic at $32, cash.

DRUGS AND DYES—The market for pretty much all articles under this head has been only moderately active during the week. Prices, however, are without quotable variation.

FLOUR AND MEAL—The market for Western and State Flour is less active and is quite heavy at the close owing to the decline in exchange and gold, and the firmness in ocean freights, which checks the inquiry. Trade and Family brands are also dull and irregular. The sales are 9,100 bbls. at $6 10@$6 25 for Superfine State; $6 40@$6 55 for extra State; $6 60@$6 70 for Fancy do.; $6 70@$7 05 for the low grades of Western Extra; $7 45@$7 55 for shipping Ohio; $7 60@$8 75 for Trade and Family brands, and $7 60@$11 for St. Louis extras. Canadian Flour is dull and heavy, the arrivals are fair; sales of 270 bbls. at $6 40@$6 55 for the low grades of extra, and $6 60@$8 75 for Trade and Family extras. Southern Flour is rather quiet but is firmly held; sales of 700 bbls. at $7 50@$8 for mixed to good Superfine Country Baltimore, &c., and $8 10@$10 75 for Trade and Family brands. Rye Flour is firm and in limited request; sales of 160 bbls. at $5 75@$7. Corn Meal is less animated but the supply is light and holders are firm. The last sales of Marsh's Caloric were at $6 15.

FISH—Dry Cod are rather quiet, but firm at $6 50@$6 75 for Western and St. George's Bank. Mackerel are in fair demand and are firm, with sales of 2,500 bbls. at $14 87 for small No. 1 Massachusetts; $10 75 for large No. 2 do., and $6 25 for Medium No. 3 do., now held higher. We quote large No. 1 Massachusetts at $18@$18 50; small do. at $14 75@$15 50; large No. 2 do. at $10 50@$10 75; medium do. at $9, and medium No. 3 do. at $6 25. Other kinds of Mackerel are scarce and nominal. Pickled Herring is quiet at $3 25@$6 25 for Common to Prime quality. Smoked Herring are in good supply and being in limited request are somewhat heavy at 33@40c. for Scaled, and 26@30c. for No. 1, with sales of 700 boxes within the range. Pickled Cod and Scale Fish are in moderate demand at $6 50@$6 75 for the former, and $5 for the latter. Salmon are firm at $25@$25 50.

FRUIT—The market for Raisins has been fairly active during the week, and prices ruled very firm; sales were made at $4 ⅌ box for Layers, in lots, $2 15 ⅌ half box, and $1 15 ⅌ quarter box; Bunch at $3 90, and $1 07½ ⅌ quarter box. There has been a large movement in Citron at well-maintained prices; sales were made at 30@30½c. for Leghorn. Other kinds of Foreign Dried have been in moderate request, and firm at previous prices. Domestic Dried Fruits have been in light supply; the demand was good and the market firm; sales of State Apples at 9½@10c.

GRAIN—The Wheat market is less active and about 1c. ⅌ bush. lower, in sympathy with gold and exchange, but there is a moderate inquiry at the concession, partly on speculative account, and the market closes with more steadiness. The sales are 113,800 bush., and consist of Chicago Spring at $1 45@$1 48; 27,100 do. Milwaukee Club at $1 46½@$1 49; 35,500 do. Amber do. at $1 45@$1 50, chiefly at the latter rate; 20,400 do. Red Western at $1 56@$1 59, and 8,400 do. Amber do. at $1 60@$1 62. Barley is firmly held and in moderate request; sales of 3,200 bush. State at $1 45@$1 46. Barley Malt is steady and in limited demand; sales of 2,700 bush. State at $1 60@$1 61. Rye is selling in small lots at $1 35@$1 37. Oats opened firm but closed quiet and heavy; sales of Canadian at 85½@90c., and State and Western at 90@91c. Corn is scarce, and with a good demand for consumption the market is decidedly firmer, and closes buoyant at our extreme figures; sales of 67,000 bush. at $1 25@$1 27 for Mixed in store, and $1 28@$1 29 for do. afloat. Canadian Peas are firm and in good request; sales of 7,000 bush. in store at $1 12. Beans are quite firm and in fair demand; sales of 500 bbls. at $2 85@$3 for Marrows, and $2 65@$2 75 for Mediums.

GUNNY BAGS are dull and nominal at 20½@21c., cash.

GUNNY CLOTH is in limited request at 13½@14c.; sales of 100 bales in bond at 11½c., cash.

HEMP—American is dull yet firm at $150@$165 ⅌ tun for Undressed, and $275@$300 for Dressed. Foreign is also dull with sales of 500 bales Manilla at 12½c. ⅌ lb; which is a slight concession. We quote Manilla at 12¼@12½c. ⅌ lb; Jute at $220@$225 ⅌ ton, and Clean Russia at $425.

HIDES—In the early part of the week the market for Dry Hides ruled comparatively quiet; the healthy condition of the Leather market, and the unsettled state of finances, strengthened the views of holders, and the few sales made were at an improvement; ere the close there was a better feeling, and the sales were large—in fact, larger than for some time past. Our quotations show an advance over those in our last. In Wet Salted Hides there was a good inquiry, the sales for home consumption; prices ruled firm, and at the close tend upward. For Upper Leather stock there continues a fair demand, and full prices were realized. We quote the principal kinds as follows: 28½@29c. for Buenos Ayres; 28@28½c. for Rio Grande; 26½@27c. for Orinoco; 25½@26c. for San Juan; 18@24c. for Dry and Salted Maracaibo; 26@27c. for Matamoras; 20@21c. for Dry Salted do.; 23½@24c. for Tampico; 24@24½c. for Vera Cruz; 25@26c. for Porto Cabello; 22@23c. for Laguayra; 22@22½c. for Dry Western; 11½@12c. for Green Salted Country and Western; 11@12c. for City Slaughter and do. Association, and 17@18c. for Calcutta Buffalo. The total stock on hand is 129,200; same time last year, 124,500.

HOPS are steady and in fair demand at 23@25c. for fair to good, 26@27c. for prime, and 28@29c. for fancy goods, which are scarce; Common are dull and plenty at 20@22c.

[illegible] of 220 bales at [illegible] demand at 90c.@$1. Oat Straw is scarcer at 80@90c.

IRON—The market has lapsed into a quiet state owing to the very meager supply offering of all kinds, the extreme prices, and last though not least the closing of navigation, all of which tend to restrict transactions to the urgent want of the local trade. Apart, therefore, from a retail transaction, we only learn of a sale of 50 tons Refined English Bar, at $100, cash. We quote Scotch Pig at $43@$45 ⅌ tun, cash, but job lots command higher rates; American No. 1 Pig at $42@$45, but Nos. 2 and 3 do. are more plenty and comparatively much lower; Swedish Bar at $135; English Refined do. at $95@$100; do. Sheet at 6½@8c. ⅌ lb, and Russia do. at 21½c.

LEATHER—The market for Hemlock Sole has not been very active during the week, though a good inquiry prevailed, but the extreme prices demanded by holders naturally checked transactions; in prices there is no quotable variation; toward the close, however, the trade being willing sellers at our figures. The demand for Oak Sole has been quite active, and prices at the close are better. Upper in rough has been in brisk demand, the receipts being taken at hardening prices; we quote Hemlock Buenos Ayres at 29@30c. for light; 30½@31½c. for middle, and 31½@32c. for heavy; Hemlock California at 29@30c. for light; 31@31½c. for middle, and 32@32½c. for heavy; and Hemlock Orinoco at 29½@30c. for light; 31@32½c. for middle, and 30@30½c. for heavy. Oak Sole at 40@41c. for light; [illegible] for middle and heavy, and Oak crop at 45@47c. The demand for both French and American Calfskins has been only moderate, and prices have undergone no essential change.

LUMBER generally is in very light supply, and the market is firm, but the demand has subsided for the moment, owing to the less urgent wants of builders. We quote Eastern Spruce and Pine Timber at $19@$23 50 ⅌ M feet; White Oak Logs and Plank at $35@$40; Black Walnut Logs 6½@8c. ⅌ sup. foot; do. do. Crotchets at 18@25c.; do. do. Figured and Blistered, 20c.@$1 25; Bird's Eye Maple Logs, 6@7c.; White Oak Pipe Staves, Culls, Light, Heavy and Extra at $80@$125, $140 and $175 respectively; do. do. Hhd. Staves at $120 for Extra; $100 for Extra Heavy, $75 for Light, and $63 for Culls; do. Bbl. at $90@$70, $60, and $40, respectively, for Extra, Heavy, Light and Culls; Red Oak Hhd. Staves at $80 for Heavy and $60 for Light, and White Oak Hhd. Heading at $85.

LATH are scarce and held with increased firmness at $1 50 ⅌ M.

LEAD—Pig is in fair request and prices have continued to favor the seller; sales of 325 tuns Foreign and Galena, chiefly the former, at $9 75@$10 ⅌ 100 lb. Bar is firm at 11½c., and Sheet and Pipe at 12½c. ⅌ lb, cash.

LIME—Rockland is very quiet but firm at $1 35 for Common and $1 60 for Lump, cash. Glen's Falls Lump commands $1 35, and Joints $1 75, three mos.

MOLASSES is very quiet, and prices are almost nominal. We hear of only sales of 30 bbls. New-Orleans at 60c.

NAILS are steady and firm at 5½c. for Cut; 6½@6½c. for Clinch, and 31@33c. for American Forged Horse.

NAVAL STORES are extremely dull and somewhat heavy, with small sales of Spirits Turpentine at $2 80@$2 95 ⅌ gal. Common and Strained Rosin at $3@38c.; No. 2 at 36@38c., and No. 1 at 33@45c. ⅌ 280 lb. Tar is quiet at $13 50@$14 ⅌ bbl. for Washington and Newbern, and $14 50@$15 for Stockholm. Pitch is dull yet firm at $20@$25 for City.

OILS generally are inactive yet firm at $1 45@$1 48 ⅌ gallon, in casks and in bbls., for City Linseed; but some 6,000 gallons do. have been sold as low as $1 42@$1 43; $1 10@$1 12 for Crude Whale; $1 27½@$1 25 for Refined Winter do.; $1 60@$1 62½ for Crude Sperm; $1 90@$1 95 for Winter Pressed do.; 79@80c. for City Distilled Red; 83@85c. for Saponified do.; $1@$1 03 for Fall Lard; $1 05@$1 10 for Western Winter do.; $1 03 for Winter Herring; $1 for Menhaden; $1 21 for Shore; $1 60 for Ethereal; $2 05 for Fluid; $3 20 for Camphene; 54@55c. for Kerosene; $1 90@$2 ⅌ gall. for Olive; $4 50@$8 50 for do. ⅌ two dozen qts. and pints, and 11@11½c. ⅌ lb for Palm.

OIL CAKE—The market is firm, the supply light; sales of 120 tons at $48 28 for City in bags, $53 50 in bbls., and $47 for Western Thin Oblong in bags.

OAT MEAL—The demand is in excess of the supply, and holders are firmer; sales of 70 bags of State at $2 40 ⅌ 100 lbs.

PROVISIONS—The Pork market is less active, and prices (especially for New Mess), are lower, although the arrivals are small. The sales are 1,800 bbls. a $17@$17 25 for Old Mess; $18 25 for New do.; $12 12½@$13 for Prime; $14 25@$14 87½ for Sour and Musty Mess, and $16 62½ for Thin Mess. Beef is in moderate demand, and with light receipts the market is firm; sales of 300 bbls. at $12 50@$14 for Plain Mess, and $14 25@$15 75 for Extra do. Tierce Beef is in fair request but prices favor the buyer; sales of 400 tcs. at $25 for Western Prime Mess, and India Mess on private terms. Beef Hams are steady, and in fair demand; sales of 200 bbls. at $17 75@$18 for Western. Cut Meats are fairly active at previous prices; sales of 150 pkgs. Pickled Hams, at 10½@11c.; 100 do. Long Cut Hams at 11½c., and 10,000 lb Bellies in bulk, at 10c. Bacon is moderately active; sales of 100 bxs. Long Clear Middles at 10½c., and 250 bxs. Short Ribbed do. for delivery all this month at 9½c. Dressed Hogs are steady at 7½@7⅞c. for Western, and 7½@8c. for City. Lard is only moderately active, and prices favor the buyer, in sympathy with exchange; sales of 1,600 bbls. and tcs. at 11½@12½c., the latter an extreme at the close.

EXPORTS FOR WEEK ENDING DEC. 16, 1863.

	Beef, Tcs.	Pork, Bbls.	Bacon, Tuns.	Butter, Tuns.	Ch'se, Tuns.	Lard, Tuns.	Tal'w, Tuns.
To London	3,015	150	70	234	110	..	90
To Liverpool	5,059	406	974	305	133	33	236
To Glasgow	281	..	58	5	4	..	30
To other ports	75	70	9	..	..	161	93
Total to Grt. Br. and the Con't.	8,430	576	1,061	564	297	194	503
Since Sept. 1	25,419	4,716	7,224	5,960	6,565	8,958	4,002

RECEIPTS OF PRODUCE FOR THE WEEK.

	Pork, Bbls.	Beef, Pkgs.	Lard, Tuns.	Butt'r, Tuns.	Ch'se, Tuns.
For the week end'g Dec. 15.	3,771	12,223	213	873	356
Since Sept. 1, 1863	23,657	131,337	4,711	8,201	6,257

PETROLEUM arrives very sparingly, and with a reduced stock in first hands, most holders are indifferent sellers unless at full rates; but the report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, advising the drawback to be repealed or abolished, has momentarily blighted the hopes of those who expected the levying of a heavy internal tax, and completely checked the speculative moment, and hence the transactions are confined chiefly to the pressing wants of the trade, at 30@31c. for Crude; 45@46c. for Refined in bond (which is below the views of holders, as no handsome Oil could be obtained short of 46@47c.), and 54@56c. for do. free. Refined Naphtha commands 33@37c., as to quality.

PETROLEUM BARRELS have been in good request at $1 45@$1 50 for Refined, and $1 35 for Crude.

PAINTS are dull and we only learn of sales of 30 tons China Clay at $30@$33, cash.

PLASTER PARIS is firm and in fair demand; sales of 200 tuns Blue Nova Scotia at $4 ⅌ tun; 400 do. do. on private terms, and 210 do. damaged do. delivered at Port Morris at $3 25, cash. Calcined commands $1 75 ⅌ bbl.

RICE—East India descriptions are very dull, and prices are nominally ½c. ⅌ lb lower, owing to the large stock on hand. We quote: Rangoon at 7½@7¾c.

SUGARS—The demand for Raw is only moderate, and the market is without material change in prices. We quote fair to good Refining at 12½@12¾c.; the sales are 351 hhds. Cuba at 12½@12¾c., and 750 boxes Havana at 11½@12½c. Refined are quiet, and without material change in prices. We repeat Messrs. R. L. & A. Stuart's established quotations: Loaf Sugar, 17½c. ⅌ lb; best Crushed, 17c.; Granulated, 16½; Ground, 16½c.; White A, 16½c., and Yellow C, 15½c., all cash.

SPICES—Most articles under this heading have been in active speculative demand, and prices have largely advanced in anticipation of the imposed additional duties on Pepper and Cassia especially. Holders ere the close are very firm in their terms, and demand 45@46c. for Cassia in mats, duty paid, and 24c. in bond; 27@28c. for Race and African Ginger; 57½@60c. for Mace; 85@87½c. for No. 1 Nutmegs; 28½@29c. for Pepper, duty paid, and 10@10½c. in bond; 21@21½c. for Jamaica Pimento, and 43@45c. for Cloves.

SALT—The market is quiet but firm for most descriptions, as the bulk of recent arrivals was sold previously; sales of 3,500 bush. of Inagua at 40c. 4 mos. We quote: Turk's Island at 48@50c.; Liverpool Ground at $1 75 ⅌ sack; do. Fine at $2 50; and do. Ashton's at $2 90.

SEEDS—Calcutta Linseed is firm and in moderate request at $3 60@$3 82½, but most holders ask $3 85, and Bombay is held at $3 90 ⅌ bush. of 52 lbs.

SKINS are in light supply and the market is quite firm both for Goat and Deer. Of the former, sales of some 60 bales Curacoa were made at 48@50c., cash, and of the latter, 23 bales Para on private terms, but supposed to be at 70@77½c., cash.

SPELTER is in less animated demand, but the stock is now concentrated and held with much firmness at 9½c. for Silesian, and 9½c. for Lehigh ⅌ lb, cash, at which some 60 tuns were disposed of.

STEARIN—The market is more active for Western; sales of 120,000 bbls. at 11½@12c. cash.

TEA—There has prevailed a good inquiry from the trade since the date of our last report, and the market, especially for Black, ruled very strong with a buoyant feeling at the close.

TALLOW—The receipts are liberal, and with a further decline in exchange, prices are down; sales of 91,000 lbs. at 10½@11½c. for Western, 12@12½ for Eastern, and 12@12½ for City. Rough Fat is selling at 6@6½c. cash.

TIN—Block Tin is less active but is firm at 46@46½c., cash, for Straits, with sales of 750 slabs on private terms, and 5 tuns English at 47½c., cash. Banca is quiet at 54c. Plates are firm and in limited demand at $14 for I. C. Charcoal; sales of 1,500 boxes Coke Terne at $9 12½@$9 25, cash.

WOOL of most kinds is in very light supply, and the market is firm, but the demand is moderate, as is usually the case toward the close of the waning year. The trade are now preparing to take account of stock, and we do not look for much activity until after the close of the holidays, although cheaper lots, no doubt, can be picked up more easily before than after, as manufacturers will then be obliged to purchase with more alacrity in order to replenish their stocks. The sale of 1,809 bls. damaged Cape early in the week was well attended by dealers and Woolen producers, and very full prices were offered for the greater portion of the goods, viz: 22 to 38c., and 4½@6c. for very badly damaged; the latter of course was very cheap, but it was piled wool on the dock, and required much handling before it could be used; 10 bales Mestiza sold at 21c. At private sale the transactions are: 160,000 lb Native Fleece at 75@88c., as to quality; 25,000 lb Pulled at 73@80c., mostly at 75@78c.; 250 bales California at 45@50c.; 230 do. Cape at 40@45c., mostly at 40@42½c.; 25 do. Santa Fé at 35c.; 100 do. Mestiza at 31@35c.; 400 do. Black and Gray Mediterranean, to arrive; 70 do. Algiers, 60 do. Mestiza, and 65 do. Extra, on private terms.

WHISKY—The market is lower and only a limited inquiry is noticeable even at the decline; sales of 770 bbls. at 82@84c. for State, and 85@86c. for Western, closing at 85c.

WHALEBONE is dull, yet firm, at $1 35 ⅌ lb for South Sea; $1 50 for North-West Coast; $1 55 for small Ochotsk; $1 60 for medium do., and $1 60@$1 65 for Arctic.

ZINC—The market is quiet but firm at 12½@12½c. ⅌ lb for Mosselman Sheet, cash.

Boston Cattle Market,

AT CAMBRIDGE AND BRIGHTON.

Reported for THE TRIBUNE, *for the week ending, Dec. 16, 1863.*

At Market—1,625 Northern, 430 Eastern, and 950 Western—in all 3,005 cattle, or some 350 less than last week.

PRICES.

Beeves—First quality... $8 00@$8 50 } Per 100 lb on the total
Second do.... 6 75@ 7 75 } weight of hide, tallow,
Third do...... 5 50@ 6 50 } and dressed beef.
Extra, $8 75@$9 00.

Working Oxen—$70@$150, or according to their value as beef.

Stores—Yearlings, $10@$15; Two-year-olds, $15@$30; Three-year-olds, $35@$45.

Sheep—5½@6c. ⅌ lb on live weight; in lots $4@$6.

Lambs—$3 15@$4 25 each.

Milch Cows—$25, $30, $40, and $55. Ordinary, $15@$20.

Swine—Stores, wholesale, 5½@6c.; retail, 6@7½c. Live fat Hogs, corn-fed, 6½@7c. ⅌ lb.

Hides, 9@9½c. *Calf Skins*, 14c. *Tallow*, 8½@9c. *Pelts*, $2 25@$2 50.

A part of the trains due at Cambridge arrived late yesterday forenoon, but drovers whose stock arrived in good season complained that nobody wanted to buy. The weather cleared off, and the wind from the north-west was cold, but still there was but little animation in business. Last week the butchers took hold of trade, as hungry men do of a scant dinner; this week they acted like men who had lost their appetites. The drovers claimed that their bids were from ½c. to 1c. ⅌ lb less than last week; but, as the cattle are not as good this week as last, probably something must be allowed for that.

At Brighton there were nearly 500 Eastern and between 900 and 1,000 Western cattle. Here, also, the drovers say the market is against them, and the butchers admit that they buy on rather better terms than last week. In consequence of trouble in getting stock across the Hudson River at Albany, the [illegible] Saturday. This, with the mild weather, and the large amount of Western for the present week, are good reasons for a decline in prices, which, however, we cannot place at over ½c. ⅌ lb on like quality.

The leading sheep butchers look to Albany this week for a portion of their stock, and can therefore play the independent with the Northern drovers. At Cambridge, we noticed quite a number of droves yarded, an indication of a dull market, as generally all the sheep are sold at the cars. The whole number at Cambridge was about 4,200. At Brighton, 600 Western and 1,200 Eastern, in all 6,000, some 300 less than last week. Good lots sold at 6c. ⅌ lb, live weight; one or two choice droves brought 6½@6½c. Most of the sheep and lambs have sold by the head without weighing, or by adding expense of commission to cost in the country. Long & Wilcox sold 200 Northern New-York sheep, live weight, almost 100 lb each, at 6c.

Philadelphia Cattle Market—Dec. 16.

The supply of Beef Cattle this week was not very large, amounting to only 2,150 head. The demand, however, was not very brisk, and prices remained about the same as last week. Extra Cattle sold at $11 50 ⅌ 100 lb, and good to prime from $9 to $10 50; common and ordinary were sold at from $7 to $8 ⅌ 100 lb.

SHEEP—This market was well supplied, the offerings amounting to 4,500 head, all of which were sold at from 5 to 5½c. ⅌ lb, gross.

HOGS—The supply of Hogs reached 6,250 head. Sales were made at from $7 50 to $9 ⅌ 100 lb.

COWS—The sale of Cows amounted to 175 head, at from $20 to $30 for Springers, and from $25 to $45 for Cows with Calves.

N. Y. Wholesale Prices of Country Produce,

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, Dec. 16, 1863.

[Reported expressly for THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.]

Shippers of produce, in order to realize the highest market prices for their consignments, should heed the following instructions:

Mark the consignee's name plainly and neatly upon each package to be shipped, together with your own name or private mark, and also the contents of the package.

Be sure that the articles are in good order when put into the package, and that they are so put up that they cannot break or spoil on the way.

Send an invoice to the consignee by mail, immediately on shipment of goods.

A reputation for accuracy of count, weight, tare, &c., is very valuable. False marks only discredit a brand and make purchasers cautious in future to the disadvantage of the shipper.

It is well for a shipper to have a uniform mark for his packages, in order, that, if a buyer should be pleased with one purchase he would know how to find another.

Neatness and cleanliness are indispensable.

The following are the wholesale commission prices for bona fide sales of good articles, in good order:

BEANS AND PEAS.

The market has been less active, but prices remain steady. Very choice mediums have brought $2 80. Canada Peas have been more active and higher. We quote:

Beans, pea, good to prime ⅌ bush.	$2 70@$2 75
Beans, medium, good to prime, ⅌ bush.	2 70@ 2 75
Beans, marrow, good to prime, ⅌ bush.	2 85@ 3 00
Beans, kidney, good to prime, ⅌ bush.	2 85@ 3 00
Beans, mixed, good to prime, ⅌ bush.	2 35@ 2 73
Beans, inferior	1 50@ 2 25
Peas, Canada, ⅌ bush	1 05@ 1 12

BUTTER.

The foreign advices have been less favorable, and the shippers have been less anxious to buy at present rates—offering, however, a cent lower; to this holders have not acceded, and the market has in consequence been quieter. Very choice half-firkin tubs and pails have had a very good inquiry from the retail trade, and prices have improved. Western is quiet and unchanged. Roll arrives sparingly; there is a good inquiry for it, and good lots have sold readily on arrival. We quote:

State, dairies, choice	30 @31
State, firkins, good to choice	28 @30
State, firkins, fair to good	24 @24
State, half-firkin tubs, good to choice	30 @33
State, half-firkin tubs, fair to good	25 @30
State, Welsh tubs, good to choice	27 @30
State, Welsh tubs, fair to good	23 @27
State, store-packed, common to choice	22 @26
Orange and Sussex County, pails	34 @38
River County, pails, choice	32 @34
River County pails, fair to good	28 @30
Northern Pennsylvania, half-firkin tubs, good to choice	27 @30
Western Pennsylvania, good to choice	23 @25
Western Reserve, good to choice	23 @26
Ohio, and other Western, good to choice	21 @23
Michigan, good to prime	24 @27
Western, common to good	19 @21
Roll Butter, in cloths, choice	26 @28
Roll Butter, in cloths, common to good	22 @24

CHEESE.

The market has been quiet during the past week, but rather a better feeling has been noticeable. English Dairy is quiet and rather dull; the stock is in excess of the wants of buyers of this grade of Cheese. We quote:

State, factory-made, prime to fancy	15 @16
State, good to choice	14 @15
State, fair to good	12 @14
State, common skimmed	— @—
Vermont, good to choice	13½@14½
Ohio, good to prime	12½@14
Ohio, fair to good	11½@12½
English Dairy, Connecticut, choice	13 @15
English Dairy, Connecticut, common to good	11 @13
English Dairy, Ohio, choice	13½@14½
Pineapple, good to choice	16 @19

EGGS.

There has been a fair demand for Eggs during the past few days, and prices have advanced. Our quotations for fresh are at the mark. Sales have been made at 30c., loss off. We quote:

State and Jersey, choice, ⅌ doz	27 @28
Western, by Express, ⅌ doz	26 @27½
Western, Ordinary freight, ⅌ doz	24 @26
Canada, ⅌ doz	26 @27
Limed, loss off, ⅌ doz	18 @22
Egg Oats, ⅌ bush., good	[illegible]

FRUITS.

APPLES—The dullness has continued, and prices have been somewhat easier. Lady Apples are in fair demand. We quote:

Mixed Western, ⅌ bbl.	$2 62½@$2 75
Common, ⅌ bbl.	1 50 @ 2 00
Selected Fruit	3 00 @ 3 25
Lady Apples, ⅌ bbl.	8 00 @ 13 00

CRANBERRIES—A little more activity has been noticeable. We quote:

Eastern, ⅌ bbl.	$8 00@$10 00
Western, ⅌ bbl.	8 00@ 9 00

DRIED FRUITS—Dried Apples have continued in active request, and prices have improved. Peaches, Cherries, and Berries are active. Plums are less eagerly sought for. We quote:

Dried Apples, sliced, ⅌ lb	—@—
Dried Apples, choice, new, ⅌ lb	9½@10
Dried Apples, good to choice, old, ⅌ lb	8½@ 9½
Peaches, peeled, new, ⅌ lb	23 @25
Peaches, unpeeled, ⅌ lb	11 @12½
Plums, new, ⅌ lb	19 @21
Pitted Cherries, new, ⅌ lb	23 @24
Cherries, with pits, ⅌ lb	— @—
Raspberries, black, new, ⅌ lb	23 @24
Blackberries, new, ⅌ lb	18 @19
Currants, domestic, ⅌ lb	3 @ 4

FRESH MEATS.

Dressed Hogs have been in heavy receipt, and prices are easier. Other kinds are unchanged in price, but steady. We quote:

Dressed Hogs, Jersey, light	8 @ 8½
Dressed Hogs, Jersey, heavy	7½@ 8½
Dressed Hogs, State	7½@ 8
Dressed Hogs, city killed	7½@ 8
Dressed Hogs, Western	7½@ 7½
Beef, sides, ⅌ lb	5 @ 8
Mutton, carcasses, ⅌ lb	5 @ 8
Lamb, carcasses, ⅌ lb	6 @ 8½
Veal, carcasses, ⅌ lb	7 @11
Live Calves, first quality, ⅌ lb	5½@ 6
Live Sheep, sheared, first quality, ⅌ lb	4½@ 6
Live Sheep, unsheared	—@—
Live Lambs	5 @ 7

FURS AND SKINS.

There has been no change. Small lots of Mink are bought up by manufacturers for their immediate wants at $6@$7 for No. 1, but that price is altogether above the views of shippers. We quote:

No. 1 Quality.	North'n & East'n.	Western.	Southern.
Otter, ⅌ piece	$5 00 @$8 50	$5 00@$6 00	$4 00@$5 00
Cross Fox	5 50 @ 9 50	5 00@ 6 00	—@—
Red Fox	3 00 @ — —	1 50@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
Gray Fox	— 50 @ — 75	— 50@ — 75	— 40@ — 60
Black Bear	10 00 @ 18 00	8 00@ 12 00	7 00@ 10 00
Do., cubs & yrl'gs	8 00 @ 10 00	6 00@ 7 00	4 00@ 6 00
Fisher	6 00 @ 7 00	6 00@ 7 50	4 00@ 5 00
Lynx	2 25 @ 2 75	— —@— —	— —@— —
Marten, common	2 25 @ 2 50	2 50@ 3 00	— —@— —
Marten, dark	8 00 @ 20 00	— —@— —	— —@— —
Mink, dark	4 00 @ 5 00	2 25@ 4 00	3 00@ 4 00
Muskrat	— 12 @ — 20	— 10@ — 18	— —@— —
Beaver, ⅌ lb	2 00 @ 2 50	2 00@ 2 50	— —@— —
Raccoon	— 27½@ — 75	— 20@ — 65	— 20@ — —
Opossum	— 15 @ — —	— 15@ — —	— 15@ — —
Wild Cat	— 25 @ — 35	— 30@ — 50	— —@— —
Wolf, prairie	— 50 @ 1 00	— 50@ — 80	— —@— —
Wolf, large	1 50 @ 1 75	1 50@ 1 75	— —@— —
Skunk, black			— 50@ — —
Skunk, half white			— 10@ — 20
Skunk, white			— 5@ — 10

GAME.

The warm weather of Saturday and Monday had a bad effect upon Quail, Partridges, and Grouse, and prices declined. Ducks are scarce and higher. Venison continues scarce and firm. We quote:

Quail, ⅌ doz	$1 25 @$1 37½
Quail, soft and shot birds, ⅌ doz	1 00 @ 1 10
Woodcock, ⅌ pair	— — @ — —
Wood Duck, ⅌ pair	— — @ — 50
Widgeon, ⅌ pair	— — @ — 50
Dippers and Teal, ⅌ pair	— 31 @ — 37
Black Ducks, ⅌ pair	— 62 @ — 75
Mallards, ⅌ pair	— 62 @ — 73
Canvas Backs, ⅌ pair	1 50 @ 2 00
Partridges, ⅌ pair	— 68 @ — 75
Prairie Chickens, ⅌ pair	— 60 @ — 65
Rabbits, each	— 15 @ — —
Hares, each	— 18 @ — 20
Wild Turkeys, ⅌ lb	— 10 @ — 14
Wild Geese, ⅌ pair	1 25 @ 1 50
Venison, saddles, ⅌ lb	— 14 @ — 15
Venison, carcasses, ⅌ lb	— 10 @ — 13

HIDES AND SKINS.

The market is quiet and steady. We quote:

Veal skins, green salted, country trimmed, ⅌ lb	16@18c.
Western Slaughter Hides, trimmed and cured, ⅌ lb	11½@11⅞c.

POTATOES.

The diminution of receipts, caused by the close of navigation and a fair demand, have caused an improvement in prices. Potatoes packed in shipping order bring 25@50c. above our quotations. We quote:

Buckeyes, ⅌ bbl.	$1 50 @$1 62½
Prince Albert, ⅌ bbl.	1 62½@ 1 75
Jackson Whites, ⅌ bbl.	1 75 @ 1 87½
Rough and Ready, ⅌ bbl.	1 63 @ 1 75
Mercers, ⅌ bbl.	2 00 @ 2 50
Peachblows, ⅌ bbl.	1 75 @ 2 12½
Sweet Potatoes, ⅌ bbl.	6 50 @ 7 00
Sweet Potatoes, in bulk, ⅌ bbl.	— — @ — —

POULTRY.

Since our last we have had very heavy receipts of Dressed Poultry, much being in bad order from the warm, wet weather of Saturday and Monday. The demand has been quite light, and prices have declined. There is a heavy stock in market to-day, and trade is very slow. Next week we will have our Christmas trade, and we want none sent in but good stock, well dressed and well packed. Live Geese are in good demand and higher. Fowls are plenty and lower.

Shippers of Dressed Poultry will consult their own interest, as well as the convenience of receivers here, by marking their packages plainly with their own name or private mark, the address of the firm to whom sent, the kind of poultry in each package, and the home weight, on the cover; also, by sending an invoice by mail. We quote:

Turkeys, live, ⅌ lb	— 11 @— 12
Fowls, live, ⅌ lb	— 8 @— 9
Ducks, live, good to choice, ⅌ pair	— 75 @— 87
Ducks, live, poor to good, ⅌ pair	— 37½@— 62
Geese, live, ⅌ pair	1 75 @ 2 25

DRESSED POULTRY.

Chickens, choice	9 @ 9½
Chickens, common to good	6 @ 8
Turkeys, choice	10 @11
Turkeys, common to good	8 @10
Ducks, choice	11 @12½
Ducks, common to good	9 @11
Geese, choice	9 @10
Geese, common to good	6 @ 8

SUNDRIES.

FEATHERS—No change. We quote:

Western, live Geese, white, ⅌ lb	65@68c.
Western, live Geese, mixed, ⅌ lb	60@65c.

BEESWAX—No change. We quote:

Southern ⅌ lb	—@—c.
Western, ⅌ lb	47 @49c.

BROOM CORN—We quote:

In bale, ⅌ lb	9@12c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—We quote:

Good, ⅌ 100 lb	$3 00 @$3 25
Extra choice, ⅌ 100 lb	3 50 @ 3 75

CABBAGES are higher. We quote: ⅌ 100, $7@$11.

SQUASHES—Demand good. We quote:

Boston Marrow, ⅌ bbl.	$3 50@$4 00

TURNIPS—We quote:

Ruta Bagas, ⅌ bbl.	$1 00 @ — —

ONIONS—Prices have declined. We quote:

Red and Yellow, ⅌ 100 strings	$ —@$5 00
Yellow, ⅌ bbl.	3 75@ 4 00
Red, ⅌ bbl.	3 75@ 4 00

HONEY is dull and easier. We quote:

White Clover, in small glass caps	26 @28c.
Buckwheat, in small glass caps	23 @25c.
Common, in wooden boxes	16 @20c.

HICKORY NUTS—New, ⅌ bush., $1 50.

MARRIED.

LOOMIS—SOULLARD—On Thursday, Dec. 10, by the Rev. J. A. Roche, Mr. George W. Loomis to Miss Emma, daughter of the late Capt. D. V. Soullard, all of this city.

DIED.

OUE—Killed by a guerilla band disguised in Federal uniform, on Monday, Nov. 2, 1863, Capt. J. C. Oue of Company C, 24th Iowa Regiment, aged 30 years. The deceased was with Gen. Grant's army during all the desperate battles which resulted in the capture of Vicksburg. He was murdered near Carrion Crow Bayou, in South-Western Louisiana. He was formerly from Ontario County, N. Y.

Ontario County papers please copy.

[Advertisement.]

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for 1864 will contain Poems by Robert Browning, Henry W. Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, John G. Whittier, and other of the best living poets. Price $3 a year, postage paid. Liberal terms to clubs. Send for a circular.

TICKNOR & FIELDS, Publishers, Boston.

[Advertisement.]

MORTON'S GOLD PENS are now sold at the same prices as before the commencement of the war; this is entirely owing to the Manufacturer's improvements in machinery, his present large Retail Business and Cash-in-advance System; for, until he commenced advertising, his business was done on Credit and *strictly with the Trade*.

The Morton Gold Pens are the only ones sold at old prices, as the makers of all other gold pens charge the Premium on the Gold, Government Tax, &c.; but Morton has in no case raised his prices, Wholesale or Retail.

Of the great numbers sent by mail to all parts of the world during the past few years, not one in a thousand has failed to reach its destination in safety; showing that the Morton Gold Pen can be obtained by any one, in every part of the country, at the same price, postage only excepted.

Reader, you can have an enduring, always ready, and reliable Gold Pen, exactly adapted to your hand and style of writing, which will do your writing vastly cheaper than Steel Pens; and at the present almost universal High-Pressure Price of everything, you can have a Morton Gold Pen cheaper, in proportion to the labor spent upon it and material used, than any other Gold Pen in the World. If you want one, see "The Pen is Mightier than the Sword," in another column.

[Advertisement.]

MILLER & CARPENTER, Produce Commission Merchants, for the sale of Butter, Cheese, Lard, Eggs, Poultry, Game, Grain, Flour, Pork, Hops, Seeds, Beans, Dried Fruits, and Country Produce generally, No. 8 Erie Buildings, N. Y. (No. 300 Washington-st.) We give our personal attention to the selling of all goods consigned to us. Liberal cash advances made on consignments. Reference: President of [illegible] N. Marsh, President Erie Railway Company.

[Advertisement.]

INTERESTING, INSTRUCTIVE, IMPORTANT.—ETHNOLOGY—A Description of Nations, Races and Tribes of Men—Their Origin, Present Condition, and Probable Destiny. PHYSIOLOGY—The Functions of the Bodily Organs in Health and Disease, including their "Use and Abuse." PHRENOLOGY—The Social, Intellectual, and Moral Nature of Man. PHYSIOGNOMY; Or, "Signs of Character," and How to Read Them. PSYCHOLOGY; Or, the "Science of the Soul," including Man's Spiritual Nature, and his relations to this life and the life to come, comprising a complete system of ANTHROPOLOGY, are given, with numerous Portraits and other Engravings, in the PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL and LIFE ILLUSTRATED. [illegible] No. 15 cents, by first post. $1 50 a year. A new vol. begins with this Jan. number. Address FOWLER & WELLS, No. 308 Broadway, New-York.

[Advertisement.]

"A SWIFT-FINGERED SISTER OF CHARITY."

Sewing has been and still is a great resource for woman in her hour of need. The introduction of the sewing-machine has beggared many a hand-sewer. With its nimble, tireless, iron finger, making hundreds of stitches a minute, she cannot compete. As well might the courier match his feet against the telegraph. The poor we still have with us, and our charity should be suited to the times. They should be provided with sewing-machines. In the language of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher to Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson:

"Your admirable needle-woman is the only seamstress that defies extortionate men. They cannot cheat it, nor starve it, nor deprive it of sleep, nor tire it out, nor make it heart-weary. It is a worker that is a match for the most unwashed and avaricious manufacturer. At last I am thankful that there is a machine-woman that cannot be oppressed nor kept in suffering."

At the approaching season of festivities, when the abundance of the rich and the wants of the poor are most strikingly contrasted, let us, as far as possible, send to the homes of virtuous, struggling poverty, this "swift-finger sister of charity."

[Advertisement.]

Parties who desire to engage in the production of the "AMERICAN SHERRY," or RHUBARB WINE, can gain valuable information by addressing J. R. MUDGE, of Belvidere, Illinois, who can give the benefit of five years' experience in the successful production and sale of said wine.

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A very appropriate and desirable HOLIDAY PRESENT, a Year's Subscription to MME. DEMOREST'S MIRROR OF FASHIONS, with the valuable Premiums, costing only $1. Published at No. 473 Broadway. Do not fail to present it to your wife or lady friend. Nothing could be offered that would be so highly appreciated.

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A MOST USEFUL HOLIDAY PRESENT.

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The Advertiser, having been restored to health in a few weeks by a very simple remedy, after having suffered several years with a severe lung affection, and that dread disease, Consumption, is anxious to make known to his fellow-sufferers the means of cure. To all who desire it, he will send a copy of the prescription used (free of charge), with the directions for preparing and using the same, which they will find a sure cure for Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, &c. The only object of the advertiser in sending the Prescription is to benefit the afflicted, and spread information which he conceives to be invaluable, and he hopes every sufferer will try his remedy, as it will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing. Parties wishing the prescription will please address

The Rev. EDWARD A. WILSON,
Williamsburgh,
Kings County, New-York.

[Advertisement.]

SHAKING OF THE DRY BONES.—Do you belong to the Shakers? We don't mean the Shaking Quakers, but that melancholy tribe who, with blue lips and chattering teeth, do penance every day, or every other day, or every third day, as victims to that remorseless fiend FEVER AND AGUE. If that's your case, poor shiverer, know that HOSTETTER'S BITTERS will cure you, though quinine and all the poisonous drugs of the materia medica, that undermine the constitution and shorten life, have been tried in vain. This glorious tonic will infuse new life into your emaciated frame, diffuse a healthful glow through your torpid system, and break up the chills with absolute certainty. Your liver will resume its interrupted functions, your appetite and strength return, your complexion recover its healthy tint, and you will become in body and mind a new creature. As a preventive and cure of all maladies proceeding from miasma, and as a general invigorant and regulator of the debilitated or disordered system, HOSTETTER'S CELEBRATED STOMACH BITTERS are of unequaled efficacy. For sale by all Druggists and Family Grocers. New-York office, No. 456 Broadway.

[Advertisement.]

GOLD PENS.—The best and the cheapest, at A. MORTON'S, No. 25 Maiden-lane, New-York.

Financial.

OFFICE OF LIVERMORE, CLEWS & CO.,
BANKERS AND U. S. 5-20 LOAN AGENTS,
No. 32 WALL-ST., N. Y., Dec. 1, 1863.

HAVING REMOVED to the commodious offices lately occupied by J. J. Cisco, esq., as the United States Sub-Treasury, we have organized our business in Departments, hoping to combine the better features of the private banking systems of Europe and America.

The financial exigencies of the times make it important (particularly to correspondents distant from the monetary centers) to be kept in constant communication with parties who are alive to the varying phases of finance consequent upon a state of war, with its attendant expansions and contractions.

We shall seek to be correctly informed respecting Military, Financial, and Political changes likely to affect monetary interests.

Our department for GOVERNMENT SECURITIES will continue, as heretofore, to be the main branch of our business.

We shall be prepared at all times to furnish the different [illegible] at the lowest market rates, including the 5-20 Six per cent Bonds, for which we act as agents.

Our SPECIE and Counter business, with the increased accommodations now afforded, will be an important feature.

The STOCK and BOND DEPARTMENT is represented in the Board of Brokers by one of our firm, who is prepared to give telegraphic quotations to such friends as desire it, and to execute promptly all orders for the purchase or sale of Stocks, Bonds, Gold, &c.

In soliciting accounts, we propose to allow interest upon deposits, subject to check at sight.

LIVERMORE, CLEWS & CO.

VERMILYE & Co.,
BANKERS, NO. 44 WALL-ST.,
Will continue to furnish

U. S. FIVE-TWENTY BONDS

as long as issued by Government at PAR and INTEREST.

To BANKS and BANKERS the usual commission allowed.

We also buy and sell, at market rates,

U. S. one-year CERTIFICATES of INDEBTEDNESS.
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Maturing CERTIFICATES of INDEBTEDNESS collected on favorable terms.

VERMILYE & Co.,
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THE WAR IN 1863.

GEN. HALLECK'S REPORT.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT REVIEW.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 15, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with your orders, I submit the following summary of military operations since my last annual report:

DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA AND ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

When Gen. Burnside relieved Gen. McClellan from his command, on the 7th of November of last year, the Army of the Potomac was on the south side of the Potomac, under instructions to pursue Gen. Lee by a flank march on the interior line to Richmond, hugging closely to the Blue Ridge, so as to observe its passes, and to give battle to the enemy whenever an opportunity occurred. On reaching Warrenton, however, Gen. Burnside proposed to give up this pursuit of Lee's army toward Richmond, and to move down the north side of the Rappahannock to Falmouth, and establish a new base of supplies at Acquia Creek or Belle Plain. This proposed change of base was not approved by me, and in a personal interview, at Warrenton, I strongly urged him to retain his present base, and continue his march toward Richmond in the manner pointed out in the President's letter of October 13 to Gen. McClellan.

Gen. Burnside did not fully concur in the President's views, but finally consented to so modify his plan as to cross his army by the fords of the Upper Rappahannock, and then move down and seize the hights south of Fredericksburg, while a small force was to be sent north of the river to enable Gen. Haupt to reopen the railroad and to rebuild the bridges, the materials for which were nearly ready in Alexandria. I, however, refused to give any official approval of this deviation from the President's instructions until his assent was obtained. On my return to Washington, on the 13th, I submitted to him this proposed change in the plan of campaign, and on its receiving his assent, rather than approval, I telegraphed on the 14th authority to Gen. Burnside to adopt it. I here refer not to Gen. Burnside's written plan to go to Falmouth, but to that of crossing the Rappahannock above its junction with the Rapidan.

It has been inferred, from the testimony of Gen. Burnside before the Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War, that his plan of marching his whole army on the north of the Rappahannock, from Warrenton to Falmouth, had been approved by the authorities in Washington, and that he expected on his arrival there to find supplies and pontoons, with gunboats to cover his crossing. In the first place, that plan was never approved, nor was he ever authorized to adopt it. In the second place, he could not possibly have expected supplies and pontoons to be landed at points then occupied in force by the enemy. Again, he was repeatedly informed that gunboats could not at that time ascend the Rappahannock to Fredericksburg.

Gen. Burnside did not commence his movement from Warrenton until the 15th, and then, instead of crossing the Rappahannock by the fords, as he was expected to do, he marched his whole army down on the north bank of that river, his advance reaching Falmouth on the 20th. Lee's army in the mean time moved down the south side of the river, but had not occupied Fredricksburg on the 21st. The river was at this time fordable a few miles above the town, and Gen. Sumner asked permission to cross and occupy the hights; but it was refused, and no attempt was made to effect the passage until the 11th of December, by which time Lee's army had been concentrated and strongly intrenched. This passage, however, was effected without serious opposition by the right wing and center, under Sumner and Hooker, at Fredricksburg, and the left wing, under Franklin, on bridges established some miles below. It was intended that Franklin's grand division, consisting of the corps of Reynolds and Smith, should attack the enemy's right and turn his position on the hights in the rear of Fredericksburg, while Sumner and Hooker attacked him in front; but, by some alleged misunderstanding of orders, Franklin's operations were limited to a mere reconnoissance, and the direct attacks of Sumner and Hooker were unsupported. The contest on the right wing during the 13th was continued till 5½ o'clock p. m., when our men were forced to fall back, after suffering terrible losses. Both armies remained in position till the night of the 15th, when Gen. Burnside withdrew his forces to the north side of the Rappahannock.

Gen. Burnside has been frequently requested to make an official report of these operations, but has furnished no information beyond that contained in his brief telegrams sent from the field, in one of which he uses the following language: "The fact that I decided to move from Warrenton to this line, rather against the opinion of the President, the Secretary of War and yourself, and that you have left the whole movement in my hands, without giving me orders, makes me the more responsible."

The loss of the Rebels in this battle is not known, as they were sheltered by their fortifications. It was probably less than ours, which, as officially reported, was 1,138 killed, 9,105 wounded, and 2,078 missing. Most of the missing and many of the slightly wounded soon rejoined their regiments and reported for duty.

It was alleged at the time that the loss of this battle resulted from the neglect to order forward the pontoon train from Washington. This order was transmitted from Warrenton to Brigadier-General Woodbury, then in Washington, on the 12th of November, and was promptly acted on by him. General Burnside had supposed that the pontoon train was then in Washington or Alexandria, while it was still on the Potomac, at Berlin, and at Harper's Ferry, Gen. Burnside's order to send it to Washington not having been received by the officer left in charge there. Gen. Burnside had only allowed time for transportation of his pontoons from Alexandria, whereas they had first to be transported to that place from Berlin. The delay was, therefore, entirely unavoidable, and on investigation of the matter by Gen. Burnside, Gen. Woodbury was exonerated from all blame.

Gen. Hooker relieved Gen. Burnside from his command on the 25th of January, but no advance movement was attempted until near the end of April, when a large cavalry force, under Gen. Stoneman, was sent across the Upper Rappahannock toward Richmond, to destroy the enemy's communications, while Gen. Hooker, with his main army, crossed the Rappahannock and the Rapidan above their junction, and took position at Chancellorsville. At the same time, Gen. Sedgwick crossed near Fredericksburg and stormed and carried the hights.

A severe battle took place on the 2d and 3d of May, and on the 5th our army was again withdrawn to the north side of the river. For want of official data, I am unable to give any detailed accounts of these operations, or of our losses.

It is also proper to remark in this place that from the time he was placed in the command of the Army of the Potomac till he reached Fairfax Station, on the 16th of June, a few days before he was relieved from the command, Gen. Hooker reported directly to the President, and received instructions directly from him. I received no official information of his plans or of their execution.

In the early part of June, Lee's army moved up the south bank of the Rappahannock, occupied the gaps of the Blue Ridge, and threatened the Valley of the Shenandoah. Gen. Hooker followed on an interior line by Warrenton Junction, Thoroughfare Gap, and Leesburg; but the operations of both armies were so masked by the intervening mountains, that neither could obtain positive information of the force and movements of the other. Winchester and Martinsburg were at this time occupied by us simply as outposts. Neither place was susceptible of a good defense. Directions were therefore given, on the 11th of June, to withdraw these garrisons to Harper's Ferry; but these orders were not obeyed, and, on the 13th, Winchester was attacked, and its armament and a part of the garrison captured. Lee now crossed the Potomac near Williamsport, and directed his march upon Harrisburg. Gen. Hooker followed on his right flank, covering Washington and Baltimore. On reaching Frederick, Maryland, on the 28th of June, he was, at his own request, relieved from the command, and Major-Gen. Meade appointed in his place.

During these movements cavalry skirmishes took place at Beverly Ford, Brandy Station, Berryville and Aldie, some of which were quite severe; but in the absence of detailed reports I am unable to give the losses on either side.

When Gen. Meade, under the orders of the President, took command of the Army of the Potomac, on the 28th of June, it was mainly concentrated at Frederick, Md. Lee's army was supposed to be advancing against Harrisburg, which was garisoned by raw militia, upon which little or no reliance could be placed. Ewell's corps was on the west side of the Susquehanna, between that place and Columbia; Longstreet's corps was near Chambersburg, and Hill's corps between that place and Cashtown. Stuart's cavalry was making a raid between Washington and Frederick, cutting Meade's line of supplies and capturing his trains.

Our force at Harper's Ferry at this time was supposed to be about eleven thousand. It was incorrectly represented to General Meade to be destitute of provisions, and that he must immediately supply it or order the abandonment of the place. Accordingly, a few hours after he assumed the command, he assented to an order drawn up by an officer of General Hooker's Staff, directing General French to send seven thousand men of the garrison to Frederick, and with the remainder—estimated at four thousand—to remove and escort the public property to Washington. This order, based on erroneous representations, was not known in Washington till too late to be countermanded. It, however, was not entirely executed when General Meade very judiciously directed the reoccupation of that important point.

On the 29th General Meade's army was put in motion, and at night was in position, its left at Emmittsburg, and right at New-Windsor. The advance of Buford's cavalry was at Gettysburg, and Kilpatrick's division at Hanover, where it encountered Stuart's cavalry, which had passed around the rear and right of our army without meeting any serious opposition.

On the 30th, the 1st, 3d, and 11th Corps were concentrated at Emmittsburg, under Gen. Reynolds, while the right wing moved up to Manchester. Buford reported the enemy in force on the Cashtown road near Gettysburg, and Reynolds moved up to that place on the 1st of July. He found our cavalry warmly engaged with the enemy, and holding him in check on the Cashtown road. Reynolds immediately deployed the advanced division of the 1st Corps, and ordered the 11th Corps to advance promptly to its support. Wadsworth's Division had driven back the enemy some distance, and captured a large number of prisoners, when Gen. Reynolds fell mortally wounded. The arrival of Ewell's Corps, about this time, by the York and Harrisburg road, compelled Gen. Howard, upon whom the command devolved, to withdraw his force, the 1st and 11th Corps, to the Cemetery Ridge, on the south side of Gettysburg. About 7 p. m., Gens. Sickles and Slocum arrived on the field with the 3d and 12th Corps, which took position, one on the left and the other on the right of the new line. The battle for the day, however, was over. Gen. Meade arrived on the field during the night with the reserves, and posted his troops in line of battle—the 1st Corps on the right, the 11th Corps next, then the 12th Corps, which crossed the Baltimore Pike; the 2d and 3d Corps on the Cemetery Ridge, on the left of the 11th Corps. The 5th Corps, pending the arrival of the 6th, formed the reserve. On the arrival of the latter, about 2 o'clock p. m., it took the place of the 5th, which was ordered to take position on the extreme left. The enemy massed his troops on an exterior ridge, about a mile and a half in front of that occupied by us. Gen. Sickles, misinterpreting his orders, instead of placing the 3d Corps on the prolongation of the Second, had moved it nearly three-fourths of a mile in advance, an error which nearly proved fatal in the battle. The enemy attacked this corps and the Second with great fury, and it was likely to be utterly annihilated, when the 5th Corps moved up on the left and enabled it to reform behind the line it was originally ordered to hold. The 6th Corps and part of the First were also opportunely thrown into this gap, and succeeded in checking the enemy's advance. About sunset the Rebels retired in confusion and disorder. About 8 p. m. an assault was made from the left of the town, which was gallantly repelled by the 1st, 2d and 11th Corps.

On the morning of the 3d we regained, after a spirited contest, a part of our line, the right of which had been yielded to sustain other points on the 2d. About 1 p. m. the enemy opened an artillery fire of 125 guns on our center and left. This was followed by an assault of heavy infantry column on our left and left center. This was successfully repulsed with terrible loss to the enemy. This terminated the battle, and the Rebels retired defeated from the field. The opposing forces in this sanguinary contest were nearly equal in numbers, and both fought with the most desperate courage. The commanders were also brave, skillful and experienced, and both handled their troops on the field with distinguished ability, but to Gen. Meade belongs the honor of a well-earned victory in one of the greatest and best fought battles of the war.

On the morning of the 4th the enemy apparently occupied a new line in front of our left, but in reality his army had commenced its retreat, carrying off a part of his wounded. His lines, however, were not entirely evacuated till the morning of the 5th, when the cavalry and the 6th Corps were sent in pursuit. The days of the 5th and 6th were employed by Gen. Meade in succoring the wounded and burying the dead left on the battle-field. He then started in pursuit of Lee by a flank movement upon Middletown. In the meantime General French had reoccupied Harper's Ferry, destroyed the enemy's pontoon train at Williamsport and Falling Waters, and captured its guards. Halting a day at Middletown, Gen. Meade crossed the South Mountain, and on the 12th found the enemy occupying a strong position on the hights of Marsh Run, in front of Williamsport. Instead of attacking Lee in this position, with the swollen waters of the Potomac in his rear, without any means of crossing his artillery, and where a defeat must have caused the surrender of his entire army, he was allowed time to construct a pontoon bridge with lumber collected from canal boats, and the ruins of wooden houses, and on the morning of the 14th his army had crossed to the south side of the river. His rear guard, however, was attacked by our cavalry, and suffered considerable loss.

Thus ended the Rebel campaign north of the Potomac, from which important political and military results had been expected.

Our own loss in this short campaign had been very severe, viz: 2,834 killed, 13,709 wounded, and 6,643 missing—in all, 23,186. We captured 3 guns, 41 standards, 13,621 prisoners, 28,178 small-arms. The entire loss of the enemy is not known, but, judging from the numbers of his dead and wounded left on the field, it must have been much greater than ours.

After crossing the Potomac, Lee continued his retreat up the Valley of the Shenandoah and through the gaps of the Blue Ridge, till he reached the south bank of the Rapidan, near Orange Court-House, where he took a defensive position to dispute the crossing of the river. Gen. Meade continued his flank pursuit by Harper's Ferry, Berlin, and Warrenton, till he reached Culpepper Court-House, when he halted his army, not deeming it prudent to cross the river and attack the enemy, who was now intrenched on the south bank, which completely commanded the approaches on the north side. During this advance, several cavalry skirmishes took place, but without serious loss on either side.

A considerable part of Lee's army was now withdrawn to reënforce Bragg in the West, but with his diminished numbers he assumed a threatening attitude against Meade, maneuvered to turn his flank, and forced him to fall back to the line of Bull Run. Having destroyed the Orange and Alexandria Railroad from the Rapidan to Manassas, the Rebels again fell back to their former position near Orange Court-House.

During these operations there were several severe engagements between detached forces, but no general battle: October 10 and 11, at Robertson's River; Oct. 12, at Brandy Station; Oct. 14, at Bristoe Station; Oct. 19, at Buckland Mills; Oct. 24, at Boulton and the Rappahannock Bridge, and on the 7th of November on the south bank of that river. Our loss at Bristoe Station was 51 killed and 329 wounded. We captured five cannon, two colors, and 450 prisoners. In the several skirmishes between the 9th and 23d of October, the casualties in our cavalry corps were 74 killed, 316 wounded, and 685 missing. The enemy's loss is not known, but must have been heavy, as we captured many prisoners. While Lee was threatening Meade's army by Warrenton and Thoroughfare Gap, Imboden descended the valley of the Shenandoah and surprised a small garrison at Charlestown, capturing 300 or 400 prisoners. Troops sent out from Harper's Ferry forced him to immediately retreat. On the 7th of November Gens. Sedgwick and French attacked the enemy at Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford, capturing several redoubts, four guns, eight battle-flags, and about 2,000 prisoners. Our loss in killed and wounded was 370. The enemy now retreated to his old position south of the Rapidan.

The operations of our troops in West Virginia are referred to here as being intimately connected with those of the Army of the Potomac. The force being too small to attempt any important campaign by itself, has acted mostly upon the defensive in repelling raids, and breaking up guerrilla bands.

When Lee's army retreated across the Potomac in July last, Brig.-Gen. Kelly concentrated all his available force on the enemy's flank, near Clear Springs, ready to coöperate in the proposed attack by Gen. Meade. They also rendered valuable services in the pursuit after Lee had effected his passage of the river.

On the 24th of July, Col. Toland attacked the enemy at Wytheville, on the Eastern and Virginia Railroad, capturing two pieces of artillery, 700 muskets, and 125 prisoners. Our loss was 17 killed and 61 wounded. The enemy's killed and wounded were reported to be 75.

In August, Gen. Averill attacked a Rebel force under Gen. Sam. Jones at Rocky Gap, in Greenbrier County, capturing one gun, 150 prisoners, and killing and wounding some 200. Our loss in killed, wounded, and missing, was 130.

On the 11th of September Imboden attacked a small force of our troops at Moorefield, wounding 15 and capturing about 150.

On the 5th of November Gen. Averill attacked and defeated the enemy near Lewisburg, capturing three pieces of artillery, 100 prisoners and a large number of small arms, wagons, and camp equipage. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded is estimated at 300.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.

Our force in North Carolina during the past year has been too small for any important operations against the enemy, and consequently has acted mostly on the defensive, holding the important positions previously captured from the Rebels. Nevertheless, Gen. Foster has given much annoyance to the enemy and taken every favorable opportunity to threaten and cut his lines.

In December last he marched against Kinston, and on the 14th defeated the enemy and captured the place. He then moved up the south side of the Neuse River to Goldsboro, burned the railroad bridge at that place and tore up much of the railroad between the river and Mount Olive. He captured 496 prisoners and nine pieces of artillery. His loss was 90 killed, 478 wounded and nine missing.

In March the Rebel General Pettigrew, with a large force of infantry and artillery, made a demonstration on Newbern, but was forced to abandon the attempt upon that place. Gen. Foster's loss was only two killed and four wounded.

In April Gen. Hill laid siege to Washington on the Tar River. The place had only a small garrison, and was but slightly fortified. Gen. Foster, however, immediately directed all his energies to strengthen the works so as to resist any assault until reënforcements arrived from Newbern to raise the siege. There is no report of losses on either side.

An expedition sent against a Rebel camp at Gum Swamp in May, which captured one hundred and sixty-five prisoners and military stores, and another in July against Rocky Mount on Tar River, which destroyed the bridge at that place, and a large amount of Rebel property, terminate the military operations in that State to the present time.

On being compelled to abandon his attempt upon Washington, the Rebel Gen. Hill marched toward Nansemond to reënforce Longstreet, who was investing Suffolk. Failing in his direct assaults upon this place, the enemy proceeded to establish batteries for its reduction. Gen. Peck made every preparation for defense of which the place was capable, and by vigorous and well-timed sorties, kept the enemy at a distance, and retarded the construction of his works, till finally the attempt was abandoned. Our loss in these operations was 44 killed, 202 wounded, and 14 missing. We captured 400 prisoners and five guns during the siege.

As Suffolk possessed no advantage as a military post, and was not susceptible of a good defense, the garrison was afterward withdrawn within the new lines constructed around Norfolk.

When the Rebel army was moving North upon Maryland and Pennsylvania, Gen. Dix sent all of his available force from Norfolk and Fortress Monroe up the York River, for the purpose of cutting off Lee's communications with Richmond, and of attacking that place, which was then defended by only a handful of militia. The expedition, however, failed to accomplish a single object for which it had been fitted out—the failure resulting, it was alleged, from the inefficiency of one of the Generals commanding. Gen. Dix therefore ordered its return, and sent the troops of which it was composed to reënforce the army of Gen. Meade, north of the Potomac.

On the 5th of October, Brig.-Gen. Wistar was sent with a small force, aided by gunboats, to Mathew County, Va., to break up a Rebel party, known as the "Confederate Volunteer Coast Guard," which was engaged in smuggling goods across the Chesapeake from Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Most of these "Coast Guards" were absent at the time, but the expedition resulted in capturing 150 boats and schooners and 80 head of beef cattle. The Navy has given efficient aid in all the operations in this Department.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

The withdrawal last year of most of our troops in South Carolina to reënforce Gen. McClellan on the Peninsula compelled the Commanding General of that department to confine himself mainly to the defense of the points which he then occupied.

An attack upon Fort Sumter and Charleston had long been in contemplation by the Navy Department, and in March last it was represented that the operations of the iron-clads and monitors would be greatly facilitated by a land force prepared to assist the attack, and to occupy any work reduced by the navy. Accordingly Gen. Foster, with a considerable force, and a large siege equipage which had been prepared for another purpose, was sent to assist in this naval attack. It was thought that his talents and experience as an engineer officer, and his personal knowledge of the localities and defensive works of Charleston harbor, rendered him peculiarly suited for this duty; but not proving acceptable to the commanding General of the department, he was permitted to return to his command in North Carolina, leaving his troops and siege preparations in the Department of the South.

The naval attack on Fort Sumter took place on the 7th of April, but being unsuccessful, nothing apparently remained to be done by the land forces. A siege of Charleston and its defenses by land had never been contemplated, and, therefore, was no part of the plan.

It was now represented by the Navy Department that a second attack upon Fort Sumter and Charleston was preparing, and that its success required the military occupation of Morris Island and the establishment of land batteries on that Island to assist in the reduction of Fort Sumter. The establishment of these batteries and the reduction of the enemy's works—Fort Wagner and Battery Gregg—being a matter of engineering skill, Brigadier-General, now Major-Gen. Q. A. Gillmore, was selected to command the land forces engaged in these operations. In addition to being an educated and skillful military engineer, he had considerable experience in the special duties required in these operations.

Gen. Gillmore, despite the enemy's defensive works, landed his force on Morris Island on the 10th of July, and immediately commenced the slow and difficult operations of conducting the siege of Fort Wagner and establishing batteries against Fort Sumter. Without, however, waiting for the reduction of the former he opened, on the 17th of August, his fire on the latter, and on the 23d, after seven days' bombardment, Fort Sumter was reported a shapeless and harmless mass of ruins. Being under the fire of other forts of the enemy, inaccessible by land, our troops could not occupy it, and a few guns have since been temporarily remounted, but they have been as often silenced.

Gen. Gillmore now vigorously pushed forward his saps against Fort Wagner, and on the morning of Sept. 7 took possession of that place, and also of Battery Gregg, most of the garrison having made their escape in boats during the night. He captured in all 36 pieces of artillery and a large amount of ammunition. Gen. Gillmore's operations have been characterized by great professional skill and boldness. He has overcome difficulties almost unknown in modern sieges. Indeed, his operations on Morris Island constitute almost a new era in the science of engineering and gunnery. Since the capture of Forts Wagner and Gregg he has enlarged these works, and established powerful batteries which effectually command Fort Sumter, and can render efficient aid to any naval attack upon Charleston. They also control the entrance to the harbor.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Major-Gen. Banks took command of the Department of the Gulf on the 17th of December. Almost immediately on assuming command, he ordered a detachment of troops to Galveston, Texas, to occupy that place, under the protection of our gunboats. Col. Burrill, with three companies of the 42d Massachusetts Volunteers, the advance of the expedition, arrived at that place on the evening of the 24th of December. On consultation with the commander of the blockading force, he landed his men upon the wharf and took possession of the city.

On the 1st of January, before the arrival of the remainder of our forces, the Rebels made an attack by land with artillery and infantry, and by water with three powerful rams. Col. Burrill's command of 260 men were nearly all killed or taken prisoners. The Harriet Lane was captured, and the flag-ship Westfield was blown up by her commander to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. The Rebels also captured the coal transports and a schooner. The commanders of the Harriet Lane and the Westfield, and a number of other naval officers and men, were killed. The remainder of the expedition did not leave New-Orleans till Dec. 31, and arrived off Galveston on the 2d of January, the day after our forces there had been captured and destroyed by the enemy. Fortunately they did not attempt to land, and returned to New-Orleans in safety. It is proper to remark that this expedition was not contemplated or provided for in Gen. Banks's instructions. On the 11th of January Gen. Weitzel, with a force of infantry and artillery, aided by the gunboats under Lieut.-Commanding Buchanan, crossed Berwick Bay and attacked the Rebel gunboat Cotton in the Bayou Teche. This gunboat, being disabled by the fire of our naval and land forces, was burned by the Rebels.

The loss of Gen. Weitzel's command in this expedition was six killed and 27 wounded. A number were killed and wounded on our gunboats, and among the former Lieut.-Commanding Buchanan.

On learning the capture of the Queen of the West by the Rebels above Port Hudson, and their movements on the Red River and the Teche, Admiral Farragut determined to run past the enemy's batteries while the forces at Baton Rouge made a demonstration on the land side of Port Hudson. The demonstration was made on March 14. Admiral Farragut succeeded in passing the batteries with the Hartford and Albatross. The Monongahela and Richmond fell back, and the Mississippi grounded and was blown up by her commander. Had our land forces invested Port Hudson at this time it could have been easily reduced, as its garrison was weak. This would have opened communication by the Mississippi River with Gen. Grant, at Vicksburg. But the strength of the place was not then known, and Gen. Banks resumed his operations by the Teche and Atchafalaya.

In the latter part of March Col. Clarke was sent with a small force up the Pontchatoula and destroyed the railroad bridge at that place. He captured a Rebel officer and four privates, and three schooners loaded with cotton. His loss was six wounded. At the same time Gen. Nickerson was sent to the Amite River to destroy the Jackson Railroad. He proceeded as far as Camp Moore, and captured 43 prisoners, a considerable amount of cotton, and destroyed valuable Rebel manufactories.

In his operations up the Teche and Atchafalaya, General Banks encountered the enemy under Sibley, Taylor and Mouton, at several points, and defeated them in every engagement. Buto a la Rose was captured, with a garrison and two heavy guns, by the gunboats under Lieut.-Commanding T. Cooke of the navy. Gen. Banks reached Alexandria on the 8th of May, the enemy retreating toward Shreveport and into Texas. In this expedition Gen. Banks reports the capture of 2,000 prisoners, 22 pieces of artillery, two transports, and a large amount of public property. We destroyed three gunboats and eight transports. Our own loss in the different engagements with the enemy was very slight; numbers not given.

Gen. Banks now returned to the Mississippi River, crossed his army to Bayou Sara, where he formed a junction, May 23, with Gen. Augur's forces, from Baton Rouge. The latter had an engagement with the enemy on Port Hudson Plains on the 21st, in which he lost nineteen killed and eighty wounded. Port Hudson was immediately invested. While awaiting the slow operations of a siege, Gen. Banks made two unsuccessful assaults upon the place. Finally, on the 8th of July, the place unconditionally surrendered. We captured 6,233 prisoners, 51 pieces of artillery, two steamers, 4,400 pounds of cannon powder, 5,000 small arms, 150,000 rounds of ammunition, &c. Our loss from the 23d to the 30th of May, including the assault of the 27th, as reported, was about 1,000.

Being reënforced from Gen. Grant's army on the termination of the Mississippi campaign, Gen. Banks sent an expedition under Gen. Franklin to occupy the mouth of the Sabine River in Texas. It reached the entrance to the harbor on the 8th September, and the gunboats engaged the enemy's batteries. But two of them—the Clifton and Sachem—being disabled and forced to surrender, the others retreated, and the whole expedition returned to Brashear City. The officers and crews of the gunboats, and about 90 sharpshooters who were on board, were captured, and our loss in killed and wounded was about 30. After a long delay at Brashear City the army moved forward by Franklin and Vermillionville, and at last accounts occupied Opelousas.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE.

At the date of my last annual report Maj.-Gen. Grant occupied West Tennessee and the northern boundary of Mississippi. The object of the campaign of this army was the opening of the Mississippi River in conjunction with the army of Gen. Banks. Gen. Grant was instructed to drive the enemy in the interior as far south as possible, and destroy their railroad communications, then to fall back to Memphis and embark his available forces on transports, and with the assistance of the fleet of Admiral Porter, reduce Vicksburg. The first part of this plan was most successfully executed, but the right wing of the army sent against Vicksburg under Maj.-Gen. Sherman, found that place much stronger than was expected. Two attacks were made on the 28th and 29th of December, but failing in their object, our troops were withdrawn, and while waiting for reënforcements from Gen. Grant, moved up the Arkansas River to Arkansas Post, which place was, with the assistance of the gunboats, captured on the 11th of January. Our loss at Vicksburg, was 191 killed, 982 wounded, and 756 missing; at Arkansas Post, 129 killed, 831 wounded, and 17 missing. We captured at the latter place 5,000 prisoners, 17 pieces of cannon, 3,000 small arms, 46,000 rounds of ammunition, and 563 animals.

Gen. Grant now assumed the immediate command of the army on the Mississippi, which was largely reënforced. Being satisfied by the result of Gen. Sherman's operations that the north line of the enemy's works was too strong to be carried without a very heavy loss, he directed his attention to opening the canal which had been commenced the year before by Gen. Williams across the peninsula on the west bank of the river. This canal had been improperly located, its upper terminus being in an eddy and the lower terminus being exposed to the enemy's guns; nevertheless, it was thought that it could be completed sooner than a new one could be constructed. While working parties under Capt. Prime, chief engineer of that army, were diligently employed upon this canal, Gen. Grant directed his attention to several other projects for turning the enemy's position. These are fully described in his official report.

The canal proving impracticable and his other plans being unsuccessful, he determined to move his army by land down the west bank of the river, some seventy miles, while transports for crossing should run past the enemy's batteries at Vicksburg. The danger of running the batteries being very great, and the roads on the west side in horrible condition, this was a difficult and hazardous expedient; but it seemed to be the only possible solution of the problem. The execution of the plan, however, was greatly facilitated by Admiral Farragut, who had run two of his vessels past the enemy's batteries at Port Hudson and Grand Gulf, and cleared the river of the enemy's boats below Vicksburg, and finally, through the indomitable energy of the commanding general and the admirable dispositions of Admiral Porter for running the enemy's batteries, the operation was completely successful.

The army crossed the river at Bruinsburg April 30, turned Grand Gulf, and engaged the enemy near Port Gibson on the 1st, and Fourteen Mile Creek on the 3d of May. The enemy was defeated in both engagements, with heavy loss. Gen. Grant now moved his forces by rapid marches to the north, in order to separate the garrison of Vicksburg from the covering army of Johnston. This movement was followed by the battles of Raymond, May 12; of Jackson, May 14; of Champion's Hill, May 16; and Big Black River Bridge, May 17, in all of which our troops were victorious. Gen. Grant now proceeded to invest Vicksburg.

In order to facilitate Gen. Grant's operations by destroying the enemy's lines of communication, and prevent the early concentration of any reënforcements, Col. (now Brigadier-General) Grierson was sent with a cavalry force from La Grange on the 17th of April to traverse the interior of the State of Mississippi. This expedition was most successfully conducted. It destroyed many of the enemy's railroad bridges, depots, and much rolling stock, and reached Baton Rouge, La., in safety on the 2d of May.

On returning to Vicksburg, Gen. Grant found his forces insufficient to entirely invest the enemy's works. There was therefore danger that the two bodies of the enemy under Pemberton and Johnston might yet effect a junction, as it was known that the latter was being largely reënforced from Bragg's army in Middle and East Tennessee. Under these circumstances Gen. Grant determined to attempt to carry the place by assault. Two unsuccessful attacks were made May 19 and 22; but as reënforcements reached him a few days after, sufficiently large to enable him to completely invest the Rebel defenses, he resorted to the slower but more certain operations of a regular siege. By the 3d of July his saps were so far advanced as to render his success certain, and on that day Gen. Pemberton proposed an armistice and capitulation, which were finally accepted, and Vicksburg surrendered on the 4th of July.

In the language of Gen. Grant's official report, the results of this short campaign were: "The defeat of the enemy in five battles outside of Vicksburg, the occupation of Jackson, the capital of the State of Mississippi, and the capture of Vicksburg, and its garrison and munitions of war; a loss to the enemy of 37,000 prisoners, among whom were fifteen general officers; at least 10,000 killed and wounded; and among the killed Gens. Tracy, Tilghman and Green, and hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of stragglers who can never be collected and organized. Arms and munitions of war for an army of 60,000 have fallen into our hands, beside a large amount of other public property, consisting of railroads, locomotives, cars, steamboats, cotton, &c.; and much was destroyed to prevent our capturing it."

Our losses in these series of battles may be summed up as follows:

	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
Port Gibson	130	718	5
Fourteen Mile Creek (skirmish)	4	24	..
Raymond	69	341	32
Jackson	40	240	6
Champion's Hill	426	1,842	189
Big Black Railroad Bridge	29	242	2
Vicksburg	545	3,688	303

Of the wounded many were but slightly wounded, and continued on duty; many more required but a few days or weeks for their recovery. Not more than one-half of the wounded were permanently disabled.

When we consider the character of the country in which this army operated, the formidable obstacles to be overcome, the number of the enemy's forces and the strength of his works, we cannot fail to admire the courage and endurance of the troops, and the skill and daring of their commander. No more brilliant exploit can be found in military history.

It has been alleged, and the allegation has been widely circulated by the press, that Gen. Grant, in the conduct of his campaign, positively disobeyed the instructions of his superiors. It is hardly necessary to remark that Gen. Grant never disobeyed an order or instruction, but always carried out to the best of his ability every wish or suggestion made to him by the Government. Moreover he has never complained that the Government did not furnish him all the means and assistance in its power, to facilitate the execution of any plan he saw fit to adopt.

While the main army of Tennessee was operating against Vicksburg the enemy's force on the west side of the river made unsuccessful attacks on Milliken's Bend and Lake Providence on the 6th and 10th of June. Our loss in the former was 101 killed, 285 wounded, and 266 missing. The loss in the latter was not reported. It is represented that the colored troops, in these desperate engagements, fought with great bravery, and that the Rebels treated this class of prisoners of war, as well as their officers, with great barbarity. It has not been possible, however, to ascertain the correctness of these representations in regard to the treatment of these prisoners.

After the capture of Vicksburg, Gen. Grant reported that his troops were so much fatigued and worn out with forced marches and the labors of the siege as to absolutely require several weeks of repose before undertaking another campaign. Nevertheless, as the exigencies of the service seemed to require it, he sent out those who were least fatigued on several important expeditions, while the others remained at Vicksburg to put that place in a better defensive condition for a small garrison. As soon as Vicksburg capitulated, Gen. Sherman was sent in pursuit of Johnston's forces. The latter retreated to Jackson, Miss., which place was taken by us on the 16th of July. Our loss was about 1,000 killed, wounded, and missing. Gen. Sherman captured 764 prisoners, two rifled guns, a large amount of ammunition, and destroyed the railroads, rolling stock, &c. The enemy retreated toward the Alabama line, and Gen. Sherman returned to Vicksburg to recuperate his forces.

A military and naval force was sent to Yazoo City on the 13th. It took three hundred prisoners, captured one steamer and burned five, took six cannon, two hundred and fifty small arms, and eight hundred horses and mules. No loss on our side was reported.

Small expeditions were also sent against Canton, Pontotoc, Grenada, and Natchez, Mississippi. At Grenada a large amount of rolling stock was destroyed, and near Natchez General Ransom captured five thousand head of Texas cattle, a number of prisoners and teams, and a large amount of ammunition. The other expeditions were also successful, meeting with very little opposition.

As soon as his army was supplied and rested, General Grant sent a force under General Steele to Helena to coöperate with General Schofield's troops against Little Rock, and another, under Generals Ord and Herron, to New-Orleans, to reënforce General Banks for such ulterior operations as he might deem proper to undertake.

Small expeditions were also sent to the Red River, and to Harrisonburg and Monroe, on the Washita, to break up and destroy guerrilla bands.

After Gen. Grant left Vicksburg to assume the general command east of the Mississippi, Gen. McPherson moved with a part of his force to Canton, Miss., scattering the enemy's cavalry and destroying his materials and roads in the center of that State.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

The withdrawal to Missouri of a large part of our forces in Arkansas was stated in my last annual report. It left the frontier of the former exposed to raids, of which the Rebels were prompt to take advantage. Marmaduke, with the advance of Hindman's Rebel army, moved forward with the purpose of entering the

ing drawn from Bragg's army to reënforce Johnson in Mississippi. Reënforcements were sent to Grant from other armies in the West, but Gen. Rosecrans's army was left intact, in order that he might take advantage of Bragg's diminished numbers, and drive him back into Georgia, and thus rescue loyal East Tennessee from the hands of the Rebels, an object which the Government has kept constantly in view from the beginning of the war. I therefore urged Gen. Rosecrans to take advantage of this opportunity to carry out his long projected movement, informing him that Gen. Burnside would coöperate with his force, moving from Kentucky to East Tennessee. For various reasons he preferred to postpone his movement until the termination of the siege of Vicksburg.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding of the orders given to Gen. Rosecrans on this subject, I submit the following correspondence:

MURFREESBORO, Tenn., June 11, 1863.

Your dispatch of to-day received. You remember I gave you, as a necessary condition of success, an adequate cavalry force. Since that time I have not lost a moment in mounting our dismounted cavalry as fast as we could get horses. Not more than 300 remain to be mounted. The 5th Iowa, ordered up from Donaldson, arrived to-day. The 1st Wisconsin will be here by Saturday. My preliminary infantry movements have nearly all been completed, and I am preparing to strike a blow that will tell. But to show you how differently things are viewed here, I called on my Corps and Division Commanders and Generals of Cavalry for answers in writing to these questions—

First: From your best information, do you think the enemy materially weakened in our front? Second: Do you think this army can advance at this time with reasonable prospect of fighting a great and successful battle? Third: Do you think an advance advisable at this time? To the first, eleven answered No; six Yes—to the extent of 10,000. To the second, four Yes, with doubts; thirteen No. To the third, not one Yes; seventeen No.

Not one thinks an advance advisable until Vicksburg's fate is determined. Admitting these officers to have a reasonable share of military sagacity, courage, and patriotism, you perceive that there are graver and stronger reasons than probably appear at Washington for the attitude of this army.

I therefore counsel caution and patience at Headquarters. Better wait a little to get all we can ready to insure the best results. If, by so doing, we, per force of Providence, observe a great military maxim—not to risk two great and decisive battles at the same time—we might have cause to be thankful for it. At all events, you see that, to expect success, I must have such thorough grounds that when I say "Forward," my word will inspire conviction and confidence where both are now wanting. I should like to have your suggestion.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major-General.

To Major-General H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

WASHINGTON, June 12, 1863.—GENERAL: Your telegram of yesterday is just received.

"I do not understand your application of the military maxim not to fight two great battles at the same time. It will apply to a single army, but not to two armies acting independently of each other. Johnston and Bragg are acting on interior lines between you and Grant, and it is for their interest, not ours, that they should fight at different times, so as to use the same force against both of you. It is for our interest to fight them if possible while divided. If you are not strong enough to fight Bragg with a part of his troops absent, you will not be able to fight him after the affair at Vicksburg is over, and his troops return to your front.

There is another military maxim that "Councils of War never fight."

If you say that you are not prepared to fight Bragg, I shall not order you to do so for the responsibility of fighting or refusing to fight at a particular time or place, must rest upon the General in immediate command. It cannot be shared by a Council of War, nor will the authorities here make you fight against your will. You ask me to counsel them to caution and patience. I have done so very often, but after five or six months of inactivity, with your force all the time diminishing and no hope of any immediate increase, you must not be surprised that their patience is pretty well exhausted.

If you do not deem it prudent to risk a general battle with Bragg, why can you not harass him, or make such demonstrations as to prevent his sending more reënforcements to Johnston? I do not write this in a spirit of fault-finding, but to assure you that the prolonged inactivity of so large an army in the field is causing much complaint and dissatisfaction, not only in Washington, but throughout the country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Maj.-Gen. ROSECRANS, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, MURFREESBORO, June 21, 1863.

GENERAL: In your favor of the 12th inst. you say you do not see how the maxim of fighting two great battles at the same time, applies to the case of this army and Grant's.

Looking at the matter practically, we and our opposing forces are so widely separated that for Bragg to materially aid Johnston, he must abandon our front substantially, and then we can move to our ultimate work with more rapidly and less waste of material on natural obstacles. If Grant is defeated both forces will come here, and then we ought to be near our base.

The same maxim that forbids, as you take it, a single army fighting two great battles at the same time—by the way, a very awkward thing to do—would forbid this nation's engaging all its forces in the great West at the same time, so as to leave it without a single reserve to stem the current of possible disaster. This is, I think, sustained by high military and political considerations. We ought to fight here if we have a strong prospect of winning a decisive battle over the opposing force, and upon this ground I shall act. I shall be careful not to risk our last reserve without strong ground to expect success.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major-General.

Major-Gen. H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

When Gen. Rosecrans finally determined to advance, he was permitted to select, without restriction, his own line of operations by which to reach Chattanooga, only being directed to connect his left, so far as practicable, with the army of Gen. Burnside, and to report daily by telegraph his movements till he crossed the Tennessee River. Gen. Burnside was also ordered to connect his right, as much as possible, with Gen. Rosecrans's left, so that, if the enemy should concentrate upon either army, the other could move to its assistance. Gen. Rosecrans, on June 25, commenced a forward movement upon the enemy, well intrenched at Tullahoma, covered in front by the defiles of Duck River, a deep, narrow stream, with few fords or bridges, and a rough, rocky range of hills which divides the barrens from the lower level of Middle Tennessee. Bragg's main force occupied a strong position north of Duck River from Shelbyville, which was fortified to Wartrace, all the gaps on the roads leading thereto being held in force.

Gen. Rosecrans determined to render useless their intrenchments by turning their left, and moving on their communication at the railroad bridge on Elk River, thus compelling a battle on our own ground, or driving them in a disadvantageous line of retreat. By an admirably combined movement he deceived by a threatened advance in force on their left at Shelbyville, while the mass of his army, in reality, seized Hoover's, Liberty and other Gaps by hard fighting, and moved on Manchester, thus turning the right of the enemy's defense of Duck River, and directly threatening Bragg, who was compelled to fall back to Tullahoma, hotly pursued by Granger, who had brilliantly carried Shelbyville. Dispositions were immediately made to turn Tullahoma, and fall upon the enemy's rear; but Bragg abandoned to us his intrenched camp, and rapidly fell back toward Bridgeport, Ala., pursued as far as practicable by our forces. In the words of Gen. Rosecrans's official report, thus ended a nine days' campaign, which drove the enemy from two fortified positions and gave us possession of Middle Tennessee, conducted in one of the most extraordinary rains ever known in Tennessee at that period of the year, over a soil that becomes almost a quicksand. Our operations were retarded thirty-six hours at Hoover's Gap, and sixty hours at and in front of Winchester, which alone prevented us from getting possession of his communications and forcing the enemy to a very disastrous battle. These results were far more successful than was anticipated, and could only have been obtained by a surprise as to the direction and force of our movements.

Our losses in these operations were 85 killed, 462 wounded, and 13 missing, making in all 560.

The killed and wounded of the enemy is unknown, but we took 1,634 prisoners, of which 59 were commissioned officers. We captured, beside six pieces of artillery, many small-arms, considerable camp equipage, and large quantities of Commissary and Quartermasters' stores.

After the expulsion of this Rebel army from Middle Tennessee, Bragg retreated across the Cumberland Mountains and Tennessee River upon Chattanooga, which he fortified, and threw up defensive works at the crossing of the river as far up as Blythe's Ferry.

Having put the railroad to Stevenson in condition to forward supplies, Rosecrans on the 16th of August commenced his advance across the Cumberland Mountains, Chattanooga and its covering ridges on the southeast being his objective point. To command and avail himself of the most important passes, the front of his movement extended from the head of Sequatchie Valley, in East Tennessee, to Athens, Alabama, thus threatening the line of the Tennessee River from Whitesburg to Blythe's Ferry, a distance of over 150 miles.

The Tennessee River was reached on the 20th of August, and Chattanooga shelled from the north bank on the 21st. Pontoon, boat, raft, and trestle bridges, were rapidly prepared at Caperton's Ferry, Bridgeport, the mouth of Battle Creek and Shell Mound, and the army, except cavalry, safely crossed the Tennessee in the face of the enemy. By the 8th of September Thomas had moved on Trenton, seizing Frick's and Stevens's Gaps on the Lookout Mountain; McCook had advanced to Valley Head and taken Winston's Gap, while Crittenden had crossed to Wauhatchie, communicating on the right with Thomas, and threatened Chattanooga by the pass over the point of Lookout Mountain.

The first mountain barrier south of the Tennessee being successfully passed, Gen. Rosecrans decided to threaten the enemy's communication with his right while his center and left seized the gaps and the commanding points of the mountains in front. Gen. Crittenden's reconnoissance on the 9th developed the fact that the enemy had evacuated Chattanooga on the day and night previous.

While Gen. Crittenden's corps took peaceable possession of Chattanooga, the objective point of the campaign, Gen. Rosecrans, with the remainder of his army, pressed forward through the difficult passes of the Lookout and Missionary Mountains, apparently directing his march upon Lafayette and Rome.

On ascertaining these facts, and that Gen. Burnside was in possession of all East Tennessee above Chattanooga, and hearing that Lee was being rapidly reënforced on the Rapidan, it seemed probable that the enemy had determined to concentrate his forces for the defense of Richmond, or a new invasion of the North. The slight resistance made by him in East Tennessee, and his abandonment without defense of so important a position as Chattanooga, gave plausibility to the reports of spies and deserters from Lee's army of reënforcements arriving there from Bragg.

Fearing that Gen. Rosecrans's army might be drawn too far into the mountains of Georgia, where it could not be supplied, and might be attacked before reënforcements could reach it from Burnside, I sent him on the 11th the following telegram:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 11, 1863.

Gen. Burnside telegraphs from Cumberland Gap that he holds all East Tennessee above London, and also the gaps of the North Carolina Mountains. A cavalry force is moving toward Athens to connect with you.

After holding the mountain passes on the west of Dalton, or some other point on the railroad to prevent the return of Bragg's army, it will be decided whether your army shall move further south into Georgia and Alabama.

It is reported here by deserters that a part of Bragg's army is reënforcing Lee. It is important that the truth of this should be ascertained as early as possible.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Maj.-Gen. ROSECRANS, Chattanooga.

On the same day the following telegram was sent to Gen. Burnside:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., September 11, 1863.

I congratulate you on your success.

Hold the gap of the North Carolina mountains, the line of the Holston river, or some point, if there be one, to prevent access from Virginia, and connect with Gen. Rosecrans, at least with your cavalry. Gen. Rosecrans will occupy Dalton or some point on the railroad to close all access from Atlanta, and also the mountain passes in the West. This being done, it will be determined whether the movable force shall advance into Georgia and Alabama or into the Valley of Virginia and North Carolina.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Maj.-Gen. BURNSIDE, Cumberland Gap.

On the 12th Gen. Rosecrans telegraphed that although he was sufficiently strong for the enemy then on his front, there were indications that the Rebels intended to turn his flanks and cut off his communications; he therefore decided that Burnside should move down his infantry toward Chattanooga, on his left, and that Grant should cover the Tennessee River toward Whitesburg, to prevent any raid on Nashville. He was of opinion that no troops had been sent from Bragg's army, but that Bragg was being reënforced by Loring from Mississippi.

On the night of the 13th Gen. Foster telegraphed from Fort Monroe that trains of cars had been heard running all the time, day and night, for the last thirty-six hours, on the Petersburg and Richmond road, evidently indicating a movement of troops in some direction, and on the morning of the 14th that Longstreet's corps was reported to be going south through North Carolina. Gen. Meade had been directed to ascertain, by giving battle if necessary, whether any of Lee's troops had left. It was not till the 14th he could give me any information on this point, and then he telegraphed "My judgment, formed of a variety of meager and conflicting testimony, is that Lee's army has been reduced by Longstreet's corps, and perhaps by some regiments from Ewell's and Hill's."

As soon as I received Gen. Rosecrans's and Gen. Foster's telegrams of the 12th and 13th, I sent the following telegrams to Gens. Burnside, Rosecrans, Hurlbut, Grant, and Sherman:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 13, 1863.

It is important that all the available forces of your command be pushed forward into East Tennessee. All your scattered forces should be concentrated there. So long as we hold Tennessee, Kentucky is perfectly safe. Move down your infantry as rapidly as possible toward Chattanooga, to connect with Rosecrans. Bragg may merely hold the passes of the mountains to cover Atlanta and move his main army through Northern Alabama, to reach the Tennessee River and turn Rosecrans's right and cut off his supplies. In this case he will turn Chattanooga over to you and move to interrupt Bragg.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Major-Gen. BURNSIDE, Knoxville.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 13, 1863.

There is no intention of sending Gen. Burnside into North Carolina. He is ordered to move down and connect with you. Should the enemy attempt to turn your right flank through Alabama, Chattanooga should be turned over to Burnside; and your army, or such part of it as may not be required there, should move to prevent Bragg from reëntering Middle Tennessee. Hurlbut will aid you all he can, but most of Grant's available force is west of the Mississippi.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Major-Gen. ROSECRANS, Chattanooga.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, Sept. 13, 1863.

I think from all accounts that Steele is sufficiently strong. All your available force should be sent to Corinth and Tuscumbia to operate against Bragg. Should he attempt to turn Rosecrans's right and recross the river into Tennessee, send to General Sherman at Vicksburg for reënforcements for this purpose. Gen. Grant it is understood is sick in New-Orleans.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Major-General HURLBUT, Memphis.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 13, 1863.

It is quite possible that Bragg and Johnston will move through Northern Alabama to the Tennessee River to turn Gen. Rosecrans's right, and cut off his communications. All of Gen. Grant's available forces should be sent to Memphis, thence to Corinth and Tuscumbia, to coöperate with Rosecrans, should the Rebels attempt that movement.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Maj.-Gen. GRANT or Maj.-Gen. SHERMAN, Vicksburg.

On the 14th the following telegrams were sent to Gens. Foster, Burnside, and Hurlbut:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 14, 1863.

Information received here indicates that part of Lee's forces have gone to Petersburg. There are various suppositions for this. Some think it is intended to put down the Union feeling in North Carolina, others to make an attempt to capture Norfolk; others again to threaten Norfolk, so as to compel us to send reënforcements there from the Army of the Potomac, and then to move rapidly against Meade. Such was the plan last Spring, when Longstreet invested Suffolk. It will be well to strengthen Norfolk as much as possible, and to closely watch the enemy's movements. I think he will soon strike a blow somewhere.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Major-Gen. FOSTER, Fortress Monroe.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 14, 1863.

There are good reasons [illegible] Gen. Rosecrans's right with all possible dispatch. Communicate with Sherman to assist you, and hurry forward reënforcements as previously directed.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Maj.-Gen. HURLBURT, Memphis.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 14, 1863.

There are several reasons why you should reënforce Gen. Rosecrans with all possible dispatch. It is believed that the enemy will concentrate to give him battle. You must be there to help him.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Major-Gen. BURNSIDE, Knoxville.

In addition to Gen. Burnside's general instructions, a number of dispatches of the same purport as the above were sent to him. Gens. Schofield and Pope were directed to send forward to the Tennessee line every available man in their departments; and the commanding officers in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, were ordered to make every possible exertion to secure Gen Rosecrans's line of communication. Gen. Meade was urged to attack Gen. Lee's army while in its present reduced condition, or at least prevent him from sending off any more detachments.

It seemed useless to send any more troops into East Tennessee or Georgia, on account of the impossibility of supplying them in a country which the enemy had nearly exhausted. Gen. Burnside's army was on short rations, and that of the Cumberland inadequately supplied. Gen. Rosecrans had complained of his inadequate cavalry force, but the stables of his depots were overcrowded with animals, and the horses of his artillery, cavalry and trains were dying in numbers for want of forage.

As three separate armies were now to operate in the same field, it seemed necessary to have a single commander in order to secure a more perfect coöperation than had been obtained with the separate commands of Burnside and Rosecrans. Gen. Grant, by his distinguished services and superior rank to all the other Generals in the West, seemed entitled to this general command. But unfortunately he was at this time in New-Orleans, unable to take the field. Moreover there was no telegraphic communication with him, and the dispatches of the 13th, directed to him and Gen. Sherman did not reach them until some days after their dates, thus delaying the movements of Gen. Grant's forces from Vicksburg. Gen. Hurlburt, however, had moved the troops of his own corps, then in West Tennessee with commendable promptness. These were to be replaced by reënforcements from Steele's Corps, in Arkansas, which also formed part of Gen. Grant's Army.

Hearing nothing from Gen. Grant or Gen. Sherman's Corps at Vicksburg, it was determined on the 23d to detach the 11th and 12th Corps from the Army of the Potomac, and send them, by rail, under the command of Gen. Hooker, to protect Gen. Rosecrans's line of communication from Bridgeport to Nashville. It was known that these troops could not go immediately to the front. To send more men to Chattanooga, when those already there could not be fully supplied, would only increase the embarrassment, and probably cause the evacuation of that place. In other words, Hooker's command was temporarily performing the duties previously assigned to the reënforcements ordered from Grant's Army.

We will now return to Gen. Rosecrans's army, the main body of which we left, on the 14th, in the passes of Pigeon Mountain, with the enemy concentrating his forces near Lafayette to dispute his further advance. Bragg's threatened movements to the right and left were merely cavalry raids to cut Rosecrans's line of supplies and threaten his communications with Burnside. His main army was probably only awaiting the arrival of Longstreet's corps, to give battle in the mountains of Georgia.

Of the movements of this corps, so well known to the enemy, we could get no reliable information. All we knew positively was, that one of Longstreet's divisions had arrived in Charleston to reënforce that place. It was said that other divisions had gone to Mobile to protect it from an attack by Banks's army. But as there was no real danger of such an attack at that moment, it was more probably on its way to reënforce Bragg's army. But the time of its arrival was uncertain, as we had no reliable information of its departure from Richmond. We knew Bragg had been reënforced by troops sent by Johnston from Mississippi, and it was afterward ascertained that the Rebel authorities had falsely declared as exchanged and released from parole the prisoners of war captured by Grant and Banks at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. This shameful violation of the cartel and of the established usages of civilized warfare was resorted to by the enemy in order to swell the numbers of Bragg's army in the approaching conflict.

Gen. Rosecrans's troops were at this time scattered along an extended line from Gordon's Mills to Alpine, a distance of some 40 miles. By the 17th they were brought more within a supporting distance, and on the morning of the 18th, a concentration was begun toward Crawfish Springs, but was slowly executed.

The battle of Chickamauga commenced on the morning of the 19th, McCook's corps forming the right of our line of battle, Crittenden's the center, and Thomas's the left. The enemy first attacked our left with heavy masses, endeavoring to turn it, so as to occupy the road to Chattanooga. But all their efforts proved abortive. The center was next assailed, and temporarily driven back, but, being promptly re-enforced, maintained its ground. As night approached, the battle ceased, and the combatants rested on their arms.

The attack was furiously renewed on the morning of the 20th against our left and center. Division after division was pushed forward to resist the attacking masses of the enemy, when, according to Gen. Rosecrans's report, Gen. Wood, overlooking the direction to close up on Reynolds, supposed he was to support him by withdrawing from the line and passing in the rear of Gen. Brannan.

By this unfortunate mistake a gap was opened in the line of battle, of which the enemy took instant advantage, and striking Davis in the flank and rear threw his whole division into confusion. Gen. Wood claims that the orders he received were of such a character as to leave him no option but to obey them in the manner he did. Pouring in through this break in our line, the enemy cut off our right and right center, and attacked Sheridan's Division, which was advancing to support our left. After gallant but fruitless efforts against this Rebel torrent he was compelled to give way, but afterward rallied a considerable portion of his force, and by a circuitous route joined Gen. Thomas, who now had to breast the tide of battle against the whole Rebel Army. Our right and part of the center had been completely broken and fled in confusion from the field, carrying with them to Chattanooga their commanders, Gens. McCook, Crittenden, and also Gen. Rosecrans, who was on that part of the line. His Chief of Staff, Gen. Garfield, however, made his way to the left and joined Gen. Thomas, who still remained immovable in his position. His ranks had assumed a crescent form with its flanks supported by the lower spurs of the mountain, and here, like a lion at bay, he repulsed the terrible onsets of the enemy. About 3:30 p. m. the enemy discovered a gap in the hills in the rear of his right flank, and Longstreet commenced pouring his massive column through the opening. At this critical moment, Major-Gen. Gordon Granger, who had been posted with his reserves to cover our left and rear, arrived upon the field. He knew nothing of the condition of the battle; but, with the true instinct of a soldier, he had marched to the sound of the cannon. Gen. Thomas merely pointed out to him the gap through which the enemy was debouching, when quick as thought he threw upon it Steadman's brigade of Cavalry. In the words of Gen. Rosecrans's official report, "swift was the charge and terrible the conflict; but the enemy was broken." A thousand of our brave men killed and wounded paid for its possession; but we held the gap. Two divisions of Longstreet's corps confronted the position. Determined to take it they successively came to the assault. A battery of six guns placed in the gorge poured death and slaughter into them. They charged within a few yards of the pieces, but our grape and canister and the leaden hail of musketry, delivered in sparing but terrible volleys from cartridges taken in many instances from the boxes of their fallen companions, was too much even for Longstreet's men. About sunset they made their last charge, when our men, being out of ammunition, rushed on them with the bayonet, and they gave way to return no more.

In the mean time the enemy made repeated attempts to carry Gen. Thomas's position on the left and front, but were as often driven back with great loss. At nightfall the enemy fell back beyond the range of our artillery, leaving Thomas victorious on his hard-fought field.

As most of the corps of McCook and Crittenden were now in Chattanooga, it was deemed advisable to withdraw the left wing to that place. Thomas consequently fell back during the night to Rossville, leaving the dead and most of the wounded in the hands of the enemy. He received a supply of ammunition, and during all the 21st offered battle to the enemy; but the attack was not seriously renewed. On the night of the 21st he withdrew the remainder of the army within the defenses of Chattanooga.

The enemy suffered severely in these battles, and on the night of the 20th was virtually defeated; but being permitted to gather the trophies of the field on the 21st, he is entitled to claim a victory, however barren in its results. His loss in killed, wounded and missing, as reported in Rebel papers, was 18,000.

Our loss in these battles was 1,644 killed, 9,262 wounded, and 4,945 missing. If we add the loss of the cavalry in its several engagements at about 500, we have a total of 16,351. We lost in material, 36 guns, 20 caissons, 8,450 small arms, and 5,834 infantry accouterments. We captured 2,003 prisoners.

After Gen. Rosecrans's retreat to Chattanooga, he withdrew his forces from the passes of Lookout Mountain, which covered his line of supplies from Bridgeport. These were immediately occupied by the enemy, who also sent a cavalry force across the Tennessee above Chattanooga, which destroyed a large wagon train in the Sequatchie Valley, captured McMinnville and other points on the railroad, thus almost completely cutting off the supplies of Gen. Rosecrans's army. Fortunately for us, the line of railroad was well defended, and the enemy's cavalry being successfully attacked by Col. McCook at Anderson's Cross-Roads on the 2d of October, by Gen. Mitchell at Shelbyville on the 6th, and by Gen. Crook at Farmington on the 8th, were mostly captured and destroyed.

Major-Gen. Grant arrived at Louisville, and on the 19th, in accordance with orders of the President, assumed general command of the Departments of the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Ohio. In accordance with his recommendation, Major-Gen. G. H. Thomas was placed in the immediate command of the Department of the Cumberland, and Major-Gen. W. T. Sherman that of the Tennessee.

As the supply of the army at Chattanooga demanded [illegible] repaired to that place. [illegible] Corps, under Gen. Hooker, and throwing a force from Chattanooga, under Gen. W. F. Smith, on the south side of the river at Brown's Ferry, the points of Lookout Mountain commanding the river were recaptured on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of October. This important success restored his communications with his depots of supplies.

It is not my province, even if I had the means of doing so, to speak of the brilliant exploits of our Navy in the Western waters. It may be proper, however, to remark that Gen. Grant and his Department Commanders report that Admirals Farragut and Porter and their officers have rendered most valuable assistance in all their operations.

GENERAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

It has not been possible in the foregoing summary to refer to all the engagements, which our troops have had with the enemy during the past year, as no official accounts or reports of them could be found. The details given have been compiled from telegrams, dispatches and reports received through the various bureaus of the War Department. I respectfully recommend that all these official documents and reports received since the beginning of the war be collected and published in chronological order under the direction of the Adjutant-General's Department. Some have already been published by Congress, but they are so incorrectly printed and badly arranged as to be almost useless as historical documents.

The Rebel armies live mainly upon the country through which they pass, taking food and forage alike from friends and foes. This enables them to move with ease and great rapidity. Our commanders operating in the Rebel States generally find no supplies, and in the Border States it is difficult to distinguish between real friends and enemies. To live upon the country passed over often produces great distress among the inhabitants. But it is one of the unavoidable results of war, and is justified by the usages of civilized nations. Some of our commanders have availed themselves of this right of military appropriation, while others have required too large a supply of trains, and have not depended as much as they might have done upon the resources of the country in which they operated. Gen. Grant says, in his official report:

In the march from Bruinsburg to Vicksburg, covering a period of twenty days, before supplies could be obtained from the Government stores, only five days' rations were issued, and three of these were carried in the haversacks at the start, and were soon exhausted. All other subsistence was obtained from the country through which we passed. The march was commenced without wagons, except such as could be picked up through the country.

Instructions have been given to the Generals operating in hostile territory, to subsist their armies, so far as possible, upon the country, receipting and accounting for everything taken, so that all persons of approved loyalty may hereafter be remunerated for their losses. By this means our troops can move more rapidly and easily, and the enemy is deprived of supplies if he should reoccupy the country passed over by us. Some of our officers hesitate to fully carry out these measures from praiseworthy but mistaken notions of humanity; for what is spared by us, is almost invariably taken by the Rebel forces who manifest very little regard for the sufferings of their own people. In numerous cases women and children have been fed by us to save them from actual starvation, while fathers, husbands and brothers are fighting in the ranks of the Rebel armies, or robbing and murdering in the ranks of guerrilla bands.

Having once adopted the system of carrying nearly all our supplies with the army in the field, a system suited to countries where the mass of the population take no active part in the war, it is found very difficult to effect a radical change. Nevertheless our trains have been very considerably reduced within the past year. A still greater reduction, however, will be required to enable our troops to move as lightly and rapidly as those of the enemy.

In this connection I would respectfully call attention to the present system of army sutlers. There is no article legitimately supplied by sutlers to officers and soldiers which could not be furnished at a much less price by the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments. Sutlers and their employees are now only partially subject to military authority and discipline, and it is not difficult for those who are so disposed to act the part of spies, informers, smugglers, and contraband traders. The entire abolition of the system would rid the army of the incumbrance of sutler wagons on the march, and the nuisance of sutlers' stalls and booths in camp. It would relieve officers and soldiers of much of their present expenses, and would improve the discipline and efficiency of the troops in many ways, and particularly by removing from the camps the profligate evils of drunkenness.

I referred in my last report to the large numbers of officers and soldiers absent from their commands. It was estimated from official returns in January last, that there were then absent from duty 8,987 officers, and 282,073 non-commissioned officers and privates. Only a part of these were really disabled or sick. The remainder were mainly deserters, stragglers, malingerers and shirks, or men who absented themselves, in order to avoid duty. Much of this evil has been abated. Very few furloughs are now given, and and officers absent from duty not only lose their pay, but are subject to summary dismissal. Straggling and desertion have also greatly diminished, and might be almost entirely prevented if the punishment could be prompt and certain. In this respect our military penal code requires revision. The machinery of court-martial is too cumbrous for the trial of military offenses in time of actual war. To organize such courts, it is often necessary to detach a large number of officers from active duty in the field, and then a single case sometimes occupies a court for many months. To enforce discipline in the field it is necessary that trial and punishment should promptly follow the offense.

In regard to our military organizations I respectfully recommend an increase of the Inspector-Generals' Department, and that it be merged in the Adjutant-General's Department.

The grades of commanders of armies and of army corps should be made to correspond with their actual commands. The creation of such grades need not cause any additional expense to the Government as pay and enrollment of Generals and Lieutenant-Generals could be made the same as now allowed to Major-Generals commanding divisions.

I also respectfully call attention to our artillery organization. In the 5th Regiment of United States Artillery each battery is allowed one captain, four lieutenants, eight sergeants, and twelve corporals, and all of these, together with the privates, receive cavalry pay and allowances. In the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Regiments of United States Artillery a battery is allowed one captain, three lieutenants, four sergeants, and four corporals, and, with the exception of two batteries to each regiment for which special allowance was made by laws enacted on March 2, 1821, and March 3, 1847, all of these receive the pay and allowances of infantry; yet they are all, with the exception of four or five companies, performing precisely similar duties.

A field battery of six guns absolutely requires all the officers and non-commissioned officers allowed in the 5th Artillery, and the additional responsibility of the officers and labor of both officers and enlisted men render necessary the additional pay and allowance accorded by law to those grades in that regiment.

A simple remedy for these evils is the enactment of a law giving the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Regiments of U. S. Artillery the same organization and same rates of pay as the 5th Regiment, which, it may be added, is also the same as that already given to all the volunteer field batteries now in the U. S. service.

A similar discrepancy existed in the cavalry regiments, till an act passed by the last Congress placed them all upon the same basis of organization and pay.

The act authorizing the President to call out additional volunteers, or drafted militia, limits the call to the cavalry, artillery and infantry arms, and makes no provision for organizing volunteer engineer regiments. This was unquestionably a mere verbal omission in the law and should be supplied as it creates serious embarrassments in the organization of armies in the field. The generals commanding these armies complain in strong terms of the deficiency of Engineer troops for the repair of railroads, the construction of pontoon bridges and carrying on the operations of the siege and urge that the evil be promptly remedied.

The waste and destruction of cavalry horses in our service has proved an evil of such magnitude as to require some immediate and efficient remedy. In the Army of the Potomac there are 36 regiments of cavalry, averaging, for the last six months, from 10,000 to 14,000 men present for duty. The issues of cavalry horses to this army for the same period have been as follows:

In May	5,673	In September	6,327
In June	6,327	In October	7,036
In July	4,716		
In August	5,499	Total	35,078

To this number should be added the horses captured from the enemy and taken from the citizens, making an average remount every two months. We have now in our service some 223 regiments of cavalry, which will require, at the same rate as the Army of the Potomac, the issue within the coming year of 435,000 cavalry horses.

The organization of a Cavalry Bureau in the War Department, with frequent and thorough inspection, it was hoped would in some degree remedy these evils. To reach the source, however, further legislation is necessary. Probably the principal fault is in the treatment of their horses by the cavalry soldiers. Authority should, therefore, be given to dismount and transfer to the infantry service every man whose horse is, through his own neglect or fault, rendered unfit for service. The same rule might be applied to cavalry officers who fail to maintain the efficiency of their regiments and companies. The vacancies thus created could be filled by corresponding transfers from the regular and volunteer infantry.

By the existing law the Chief Adjt.-General, Inspector General, Quartermaster and Commissary of an army corps are allowed additional rank and pay, while no such allowance is made to the Chiefs of Engineers, Artillery and Ordnance in the same corps. These latter officers hold the same relative position and perform duties at least as important and arduous as the others; and the existing distinction is deemed unjust to them.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

On July 22, 1862, Maj.-Gen. Dix and Maj.-Gen. Hill entered into a cartel for the exchange of prisoners during the war, specially stipulating when and where exchanges should be made, and how declared, defining the meaning of a parole, and the rights and obligations of prisoners under parole, and when and how they were to be released from these obligations. Special agreements of this kind, modifying and explaining [illegible] furnish the rule of conduct for the contracting [illegible] they provide or to which they are applicable.

Finding that the Rebel authorities were paroling prisoners contrary to these stipulations, they were notified on the 22d of May last that all paroles not given in the manner prescribed by the cartel would be regarded as null and void. Nevertheless they continued to extort, by threats and ill-treatment, from our men, paroles unauthorized by the cartels, and also refused to deliver our officers and men for exchange in the manner agreed upon, but retained all colored soldiers and their officers. It is stated that they sold the former into slavery, and sentenced the latter to imprisonment and death for alleged violation of local State laws. This compelled a resort to retaliatory measures, and an equal number of their prisoners in our hands were selected as hostages for the surrender of those retained by them. All exchanges under the cartel therefore ceased. In violation of general good faith, and of engagements solemnly entered into, the Rebel Commissioner then proceeded to declare exchanged all his own paroled prisoners, and order their return to the ranks of their regiments then in the field. And we are now asked to confirm these acts by opening new accounts and making new lists of exchange; and they seek to enforce these demands by the most barbarous treatment of our officers and men now in their hands.

The Rebel prisoners held by the United States have been uniformly treated with consideration and kindness. They have been furnished with all necessary clothing, and supplied with the same quality and amount of food as our own soldiers. While our soldiers, who by the casualties of the war, have been stripped of their blankets, clothing and shoes even in the Winter season, and then confined in damp and loathsome prisons, and only half fed on damaged provisions, or actually starved to death; while hundreds have terminated their existence, loaded with irons in filthy prisons; not a few, after a semblance of trial by some military tribunal, have been actually murdered by their inhuman keepers. In fine, the treatment of our prisoners of war by the Rebel authorities has been even more barbarous than that which Christian captives formerly suffered from the pirates of Tripoli, Tunis and Algiers, and the horrors of Belle Isle and the Libby Prison exceed even those of the British hulks or the Black Hole of Calcutta. And this atrocious conduct is applauded by the people, and commended by the public press of Richmond, as a means of reducing the Yankee ranks.

It has been proposed to retaliate upon the enemy by treating his prisoners precisely as he treats ours. Such retaliation is fully justified by the laws and usages of war, and the present case seems to call for the exercise of this extreme right. Nevertheless, it is revolting to our sense of humanity to be forced to so cruel an alternative. It is hoped self interest, if not a sense of justice, may induce the Rebels to abandon a course of conduct which must ever remain a disgrace to them and their cause.

CONCLUSION.

It is seen from the foregoing summary of operations during the past year, that we have repelled every attempt of the enemy to invade the loyal States, and have rescued from his domination Kentucky and Tennessee, a portion of Alabama and Mississippi, and the greater part of Arkansas and Louisiana, and restored the free navigation of the Mississippi River.

Heretofore the enemy has enjoyed great advantages over us in the character of his theater of war. He has operated upon short and safe interior lines, while circumstances have compelled us to occupy the circumference of a circle. But the problem is now changed. By the reopening of the Mississippi River, the Rebel territory has been actually cut in twain, and we can strike the isolated fragments by operating on safer and more advantageous lines.

Although our victories since the beginning of the war have not equaled the expectations of the more sanguine, we have reason to be grateful to Divine Providence for the steady progress of our arms. In a little more than two years we have captured nearly every important point held by the Rebels on the sea coast, and we have reconquered, and now hold military possession of more than 250,000 square miles of territory held at one time by the Rebel armies, and claimed by them as a constituent part of their Confederacy. The extent of country thus recaptured and occupied by our armies is as large as France or Austria, or the entire peninsula of Spain and Portugal, and twice as large as Great Britain or Prussia or Italy.

Considering what we have already accomplished, the present condition of the enemy and the immense and still unimpaired military resources of the loyal States, we may reasonably hope the same measure of success as heretofore will bring this Rebellion to a speedy and final termination.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, I submit the following summary of the operations of Gen. Grant's Army since my report of the 15th ult.:

It appears from the official reports which have been received here that our loss in the operations of the 27th, 28th and 29th of October, in reopening communications on the south side of the Tennessee River, from Chattanooga to Bridgeport, was 76 killed, 339 wounded and 22 missing; total 437. The estimated loss of the enemy was over 1,500.

As soon as Gen. Grant could get up his supplies he prepared to advance upon the enemy, who had become weakened by the detachment of Longstreet's command against Knoxville.

Gen. Sherman's army moved up the north side of the Tennessee River, and during the nights of the 23d and 24th of November established pontoon bridges and crossed to the south side between Citico Creek and the Chickamauga. On the afternoon of the 23d, Gen. Thomas's forces attacked the enemy's rifle-pits between Chattanooga and Citico Creek. The battle was renewed on the 24th along the whole line. Sherman carried the eastern end of Missionary Ridge up to the tunnel, and Thomas repulsed every attempt of the enemy to regain the position which he had lost at the center, while Hooker's force in Lookout Valley, crossed the mountain and drove the enemy from its northern slope.

On the 25th the whole of Missionary Ridge from Rossville to the Chickamauga was, after a desperate struggle, most gallantly carried by our troops, and the enemy was completely routed. Considering the strength of the Rebel position and the difficulty of storming his intrenchments, the battle of Chattanooga must be considered the most remarkable in history. Not only did the officers and men exhibit great skill and daring in their operations on the field, but the highest praise is due to the Commanding General for his admirable dispositions for dislodging the enemy from a position apparently impregnable. Moreover, by turning his right flank and throwing him back upon Ringgold and Dalton, Sherman's forces were interposed between Bragg and Longstreet, so as to prevent any possibility of their forming a junction.

Our loss in killed, wounded, and missing, is reported at about 4,000. We captured over 6,000 prisoners beside the wounded left in our hands, 42 pieces of artillery, 5,000 or 6,000 small arms, and a large train. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded is not known.

While Generals Thomas and Hooker pushed Bragg's army back into Georgia, General Sherman, with his own and General Granger's forces, was sent into East Tennessee to prevent the return of General Longstreet and to relieve General Burnside, who was then besieged in Knoxville. We have trustworthy information that General Sherman has successfully accomplished his object, and that Longstreet is in full retreat toward Virginia. But no details have been received with regard to Sherman's operations since he crossed the Hiawassee, nor of Burnside's defense of Knoxville. It is only known that every attack of the enemy on that place was successfully repulsed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING TUESDAY, DEC. 15, 1863.

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CATTLE OF ALL KINDS FOR THE WEEK.

According to the reports from the several market-places in the city, there have been received this week:

	Beeves.	Cows.	Veals.	Sheep and Lambs.	Swine.	Total.
At Allerton's, 44th-st.	4,386	83	293	907	44,853	....
At Browning's, 6th-st.	259	24	19	4,515	....	....
At O'Brien's, 6th-st.	109	23	47	2,247	....	....
At Chamberlin's, Robinson-st.	73	84	53	3,971	....	....
Sent direct to butchers	100	....	....	1,250	....	....
Sold to butchers at Bergen	800	....	....	....	....	....
Total	5,627	124	311	12,890	44,853	63,810
Total previous week	5,392	129	545	16,913	50,978	74,155
Av. no. ⅌ wk. last yr.	4,518	4,518	575	9,138	21,664	36,000

BEEVES FROM DIFFERENT STATES.

A. M. Allerton & Co., Proprietors of the Washington Drove-Yards, Forty-fourth street, report the cattle in market from the following States:

New-York	1,610	Michigan	441
Pennsylvania	94	Iowa	94
Ohio	435	Connecticut	23
Indiana	287	New-Jersey	64
Illinois	1,188		

STOCK BY RAILROAD, ETC.

They also report Beeves and other Stock received by railroad, &c., as follows:

	Beeves.	Cows.	Veals.	Sheep and Lambs.	Swine.
By the Erie Railroad	1,207	....	....	....	15,367
Hudson River Railroad	1,477	....	....	....	12,835
Harlem Railroad	1,364	63	282	907	....
New-Haven Railroad	23	....	....	....	....
Hudson River Boats	54	....	....	....	....
On foot	231	....	....	....	....
New-Jersey Central	31	....	....	....	6,656

BEEF CATTLE.

Number reported for this market at Forty-fourth street 4,386.

The prices to-day are quoted as follows:

First quality	10½@11½	Ordinary	6 @ 8½
Medium	9 @10		

Some extra good Beeves may be quoted at 12@12½c.
The general average of the market at 9½c.
The most of the sales range from 9½c. to 11c.
Total number of Beeves received in the city this week, 5,627.

This is 35 head more than last week, and 1,109 head more than the average of last year. The average number at each Wednesday market last year was 4,082 head, while the number to-day being 4,386, shows 304 head more than the average, and 204 head more than this day week.

The following droves are in market this week:

C. Bertram, Conn.	23	Jacob Bates, N. Y.	16
John Moss, O.	79	B. W. Green, N. Y.	48
O. Duncan, N. Y.	56	Pickering & Dudley, Ill.	62
T. C. Larkins, N. Y.	20	H. Roberts, N. Y.	19
— Kinsler, Ind.	69	Ralph Murray, N. Y.	54
A. B. Mead, N. Y.	84	Platt & Co., Ill.	108
— Kelly, N. Y.	47	Geo. Toffy, O.	27
Sage & Hughes, Ind.	[illegible]	[illegible]	18
Seavy & Healy, Ill.	54	S. G. Woodruff, N. Y.	15
Seavy & Healy, Mich.	71	John Perrine, N. Y.	16
Vail & Preston, N. Y.	114	Smith & Shoedler, Mich.	35
C. W. Gwynne, O.	27	J. Rosenstock, O.	60
C. G. Teed, N. Y.	15	J. Brown, N. Y.	24
H. Rosenthal, Ill.	39	Mr. Rice, O.	31
Williams & McClany, Ill.	298	H. Westheimer, Ill.	220
P. Burns, Mich.	33	Sam. Shuester, Ill.	193
Geo. W. Martin, Ill.	49	P. G. Driscoll, O.	14
Wm. Sigel, Ill.	100	P. G. Driscoll, N. Y.	11
Wm. Sigel, Iowa	94	P. McCaffry, Ind.	134
Wm. Fowles, Mich.	50	P. Klewn, N. Y.	20
Thos. Gillies, O.	64	P. Riley, N. Y.	30
Thos. Gillies, Mich.	20	J. Budlong, Mich.	81
E. McManus, N. Y.	22	J. Flashan, O.	22
Beach & Bray, O.	62	F. Samosis, Mich.	71
Beach & Bray, Ill.	08	Jas. Budd, N. Y.	18
T. C. Eastman, N. Y.	15	—— De Witt, N. Y.	29
Jas. Yasell, O.	37	Pickering & Co., N. Y.	31
Ed. Loughman, N. Y.	38	Woodruff & Co., Pa.	94
Pat. Lynch, N. Y.	16	M. McDonough, Mich.	10
L. C. Brownell, N. Y.	35	A. Goldsmith, Mich.	31
Longwell & Van Hasen, N. Y.	20	J. A. Colt, Ind.	60
C. S. Cary, N. Y.	17		

OPENING DAY OF THE MARKET.

Monday, Dec. 14.—The great weekly market for Beef Cattle opened this morning at Forty-fourth street in a warm rain-storm, and, as buyers were led to believe from the appearance of the yards, with a very short supply of good cattle; the first sales were effected at an advance upon last week's quotations, a considerable number of extra quality bullocks having sold at 12@12½c. ⅌ lb net, and a large number at 11@11½c., and all of the real first-class bullocks sold higher than last Monday, up to about noon, when it was generally understood that there were about 3,000 head already in the yards, another thousand expected, some of which came in scattering lots all the morning from the other side of the river, and others were expected to arrive from Albany before night; this had the effect to materially depress the market, so that many of the salesmen, and most of the owners, were sure that the market was not as good for the lower grades of stock as last Monday; and we are sure that the afternoon sales were not as good, because they were forced, as owners were afraid to hold over till the closing day, and the buyers of such stock, seeing that they had the advantage, determined to hold it, and it soon became evident that the market would not wind up as well as it did last Monday. The general average quality of the stock is pretty fair—there are some excellent droves and a goodly number of good fair Western steers, such as sell freely at 10@10½c. ⅌ lb. There are quite too many very mean State steers, oxen, cows, stags, &c., which must be sold very low, say 7@8c. ⅌ lb, and some lower. The Government agents, Messrs. Starr & Reed, were present to-day, but we did not hear of their buying a bullock, and this, when found to be a fact, had an effect upon the market for all that class of cattle most suitable for shipping. We have never known a more uneven trade than it has been to-day; the prices have not only varied between morning and night, but between one yard and another, often equal to half a cent a pound. We have not had as disagreeable a day as this for business in a long time. The warm rain has drawn out the frost, and made mud abundant. The weather is too damp and chilly to dispense with Winter overcoats, which are too warm for comfort, and the rain falls in repeated showers, which follow "clearing-up spells," as suddenly as though we were in April instead of December. There is no doubt the weather has seriously damaged drovers, particularly those that arrived late. Cattle too look badly, and are not estimated to weigh as much as they would be under more favorable circumstances. The difficulty of finding a dry spot upon which cattle could lie down or be fed, has induced a good many salesmen to accept sundown offers that they would have laughed at at sunrise. The day closes with gloomy prospects for to-morrow—the delayed trains not in, but sure to arrive during the night.

THE CLOSE OF THE MARKET.

Tuesday, Dec. 15.—Over a thousand head, as a reënforcement to a large stock left over unsold last night, has placed the market to-day in a very hard position for buyers. The price is $5 to $10 a head less than yesterday morning. We saw one lot of fat State Oxen sold at $92, which would have commanded $100 readily yesterday. A lot of Western Steers, which would have sold quick on Monday morning at $80 or $83, buyers would only offer $72 for, and a lot of State Steers, held yesterday at 8c. ⅌ lb, could not be sold to-day at 7c., and were sent to a packer to be killed on account of the owner. But these reductions of prices were not all the difficulties that drovers met with; it seems quite unlikely that all the stock can be sold at any price that owners can accept without ruinous losses. The weather, however, is in their favor. It is clear and cold, and mud drying up, so that the poor brutes can be fed, some of which have been forty-eight hours on the cars.

TRANSPORTATION.

There has not been a time for many months when transportation was so out of joint between here and Albany as it is this week. In the first place, so shippers say, there was trouble about getting stock upon the Hudson River Road, as the agents there were very unaccommodating to every one who had ever shipped on the Harlem Road; and as that road has lately been gaining favor with drovers, they say because they are badly treated by the persons who superintend shipping on the Hudson cars; and as the opportunity occurred this week for him to make them feel his power, he used it, and left several hundred head of cattle at Albany, which the Harlem Road could not accommodate; and if it had, the drovers would have been no better off, for, through the laziness or stupidity of a signal man, a train was thrown off the track at Wassaic, which kept seven or eight hundred cattle out of market Monday.

It is reported that all passes on the Hudson River Road are cut off, that drovers will only be allowed to ride down upon stock trains, and must pay their passage back, and that after this no cattle will be shipped on Sunday night. If the Harlem adopts the same rule the market days will have to be changed back to Tuesday and Wednesday. It is a shame to Christianity that the time was ever altered, so as to make Sunday the busiest working day of the week. This trouble about shipments at Albany will tend to throw a very large business upon the Erie Road. There was a difficulty in getting cattle from that road on Monday morning, owing to the fog and insufficiency of ferry-boats at Forty-second street. As the transportation of that road is likely to be largely increased, we hope to be able to state that the facilities for getting over the river are materially improved.

A MAMMOTH BULLOCK.

On the 17th of February, 1863, we made the following report of a mammoth bullock: "Chas. Symons of Brooklyn bought one of the best large bullocks sold here this Winter for $320, of Volney Walworth of Jefferson Co., N. Y., who has fed him two years. He is a native of that County, from a full-bred Durham bull upon a grade Durham and Devon cow, is six years old, and weighed 3,471 lb at home, and 3,120 lb here. He is in a fine, healthy, active condition, and Mr. S. thinks of feeding him another year. We understand the owner was offered $400 at Albany, but hoped to get more here. Though not the largest of the big bullocks, the feeder is entitled to honorable mention for trying to make him so."

Mr. Symons is a butcher. His business is to kill bullocks, not to fatten them. Nevertheless, as he owns a farm in Suffolk County, on the east end of Long Island, he thought he would try whether he could improve this bullock. So he sent him to his farm, put him in a good stable and yard, where he has eaten from two to four pecks of corn meal a day, averaging twenty quarts, ever since, and has never been a day off his feed, which he has taken morning, noon and night as regular as the clock, fed dry, with all the good hay he wanted, and plenty of water and proper attendance. On Monday he was brought into market for exhibition, and excited the admiration of every one who saw him last Winter. We unhesitatingly pronounce him the best bullock among the Mammoths that has ever been exhibited in this city. Without stating his gain—that we shall give with his dead weight when Mr. Symons kills him, a few days hence—we must say that Mr. Symons has won a golden prize as a feeder, and Suffolk County and Long Island the honor of making a wonderful improvement upon this animal. He is still in fine feeding condition, and although his limbs are like those of a well-bred steer of ordinary size, he can use them as easily as most fat animals, and walks strongly over the pavements and stands up to his feed, which he takes with as good a relish as those will have who pick his bones at Christmas. If not the heaviest, he is the best steer alive, and doubtless will show the best beef when killed. It is a pity, however, that he should be killed yet for three months. If Van Amburgh would add him to his collection, he would "draw" more than any steer ever yoked, and would become, if he is not now, the heaviest bullock ever seen.

BROKERS' SALES OF BULLOCKS.

Readers will see by the reports below of a portion of the droves, how the various sorts are estimated.

Healy & Sevy bought at Albany, of Rosenthal, 54 good fat Illinois steers, estimated at 7½ cwt., while they sold to Dan. Barnes at $72, and he retailed them at a good commission. They also sold two lots of light Michigan cattle at 7½@[illegible]c. ⅌ lb.

Pat. Barnes sold on his own account 33 light Michigan steers, estimated at 5¾ cwt., at $44 each.

Harris & Coddington, 37 of James Yazell's Ohio cows, heifers, &c., estimated at 4½ cwt., are held at prices to av. 8c. ⅌ lb, but hard to make it.

Wm. Florence, 69 Indiana light steers and poor oxen, av. 5½ cwt., shipped in Kinnear's name but reported for S. Oreson, sold at 6@8c. ⅌ lb; 31 good fat Ohio steers, 6¾ cwt., sold for Rice at 10@11c. Monday evening, and 9½c. Tuesday.

John Perrine bought at Albany, 33 good State Oxen, which he sold—15 to Isaac Valentine at $85½; 16 to Ketts at $[illegible]; 2 to Chris. Gwyer at $100 each, all estimated at 10½c. ⅌ lb.

Geo. W. Martin, 41 Ill. Steers, bought at Albany, estimated at 6¾ cwt., sold to av. 10c. ⅌ lb—1 pair at 11½c.

Thomas Gillies, bought at Albany, 20 Mich. and 64 Ill. Steers and sold 50 wholesale here at 9½c. upon 7½ cwt.

Geo. Toffy sold, on his own account, 27 Ohio Steers av. 6 cwt. at 7½c. ⅌ lb, and 80 State Stock mixed, 4 to 10 cwt., av. 5½ cwt. at 7¼@10½c. here and at Bergen.

H. Rosenthal sold on his own account, 38 Ill. Steers at 9½c. ⅌ lb, upon 6 cwt.

Goff & McIntyre, 75 mixed State stock, both at Albany, av. 7½ cwt., sold on their own account to av. 10½c. ⅌ lb.

S. G. Woodruff, 15 of his own feeding, good fat Genesee Valley steers, av. 8½ cwt. and 11c. ⅌ lb; 19 for Lamont, mixed State stock, at 9@[illegible]c. ⅌ lb; 46 Pennsylvania stock for McGill & Osman, and 56 do. for John Osborn, sold on Tuesday at 8@9½c. ⅌ lb, very slow and hard to get weight.

H. Westheimer received late on Monday one of the best droves in Market of Ohio bullocks, from J. Rosenstock, 6 of which, sold at $94 50, will average 11½c. ⅌ lb. The others are expected to sell at 10½@11½c. 220 Illinois steers on Tuesday sold at a heavy reduction below prices of Monday morning.

T. C. Eastman & Bro., 79 for John Moss, Ohio stock, not as good quality as John usually brings, but will sell to av. 11c. upon 7½ cwt. 15 mixed State stock sold for B. Dumville at 10c. upon 7½ cwt.

Wm. Sigel, 197 Illinois and Iowa steers, bought at Chicago by Lauterback, av. 6½ cwt., and sell slowly at 9@10c.

Beach & Bray, 106 Illinois Steers, sold for Metcalfe at 8@11c. ⅌ lb; 63 Ohio Steers, sold on their own account, at 7½@10c.; 16 for C. P. Griswold, Franklin County, Ohio, of his own raising, and such as no farmer need be ashamed of—Steers and Cows—sold at 9½@11½c. ⅌ lb. The person in charge of this last lot said the owner was afraid to have it reported that he employed Beach to sell his cattle, because Beach was a Copperhead, and his neighbors told him they would burn his barn if he employed a Copperhead to sell his cattle. We beg leave to assure the aforesaid neighbors that Mr. Beach is a very respectable War Democrat, somewhat of the Seymour pattern, but opposed to carrying on the war by the aid of mobs or barn-burning. We therefore hope that Mr. Griswold's barn may be allowed to stand, although his cattle were sold by a delegate to the Charleston Convention.

Henry Hard brought here 40 good Steers, which sold at 9½@11½c., and only those sold early in the morning better than last week.

Teed & Wheeler have the best lot of bullocks in market; 17 of E. W. Gwinn's Ohio Durhams, which will average 11 cwt., and probably 12½c. ⅌ lb.; 6 sold to Lem. Valentine to weigh at that; 2 to Pordy estimated at 12½c.; 13 to John Harris at do., and 21 to other parties at 12½c., and 3 to Bryan Lawrence for $[illegible] were probably not less ⅌ lb. than the others; also 103 of Platt & Co's. Illinois steers, average 6¾ cwt.; first sales were at 10@10½c.

John Harris had in market from his farm, 8 remarkably fine Durham steers and heifers which he estimated at 11 cwt., and which he could have sold readily at 12½c. ⅌ lb. These were some which he bought in this market last Spring, which he has improved handsomely by feeding.

T. Bloomer, 40 up-country oxen and steers, sold at 8@10c. ⅌ lb.

Joseph H. Williams sold part of 170 of McCleery & Williams's good Illinois steers, to average 10½c. upon 7 cwt.; those in hand on Tuesday at a heavy discount.

John A. Merritt, 100 of McClung & Williams's Illinois Steers, estimated 6½ cwt., average $73 each.

H. Roberts of Schuyler County, 20 head, mixed lot, sold at 5c. for Cows, 9@9½c. for Oxen.

Pickering, Dudley & Colwell sold the following lots of State stock [illegible] Brown & Co., 24 at 6@8c. Also 17 Ohio Steers for J. P. Knowlton at 8@10c.

Murray & Glover, 50 Illinois Steers, bought of Gillis, average 6½ cwt., sold at 10@11½c.; 34 Jersey Steers, average 7 cwt., sold at 9@11c.

Vail & Preston, 87 head, fed by Isaac Anderson, Dutchess County, good, smooth Steers, sold to average 10½c.

W. Sherman, 30 up-country Cattle, sold mostly at 7½@10c., and one pair at 11½c.

Sage & Hughes sold at Bergen, for Johnson, 64 good fair Ohio Steers, average 7 cwt., at 9@10½c., and a few at 11c.; 17 poor State Oxen sold here for C. Carey are big enough to weigh 11 cwt., but are not estimated over 7 cwt., and sell at 5@8½c.; 33 good Ohio Steers, average 6¾ cwt., sold at 10@11c.; 16 State Oxen sold at Bergen for Platt, and 17 do. for Baker, average 9c. upon 7 cwt.

B. W. Greene has 48 three-year old State Steers, which he estimates at 5 cwt., and held at 9c. without buyers Monday, and would not sell Tuesday at 7c.

Geo. W. McMahon sold for Smith & Shoedler a mixed lot of Michigan stock, average 6 cwt., at 8½c.

Sutton & Saxton, 46 up-country Oxen and Steers at 8@10½c., one pair at 11c.

Ed. Loughman, 31 State stock for Knapp at 8c., and 13 for Sherman & Hendrick, good Oxen, at 10c.

Rufus Lockwood bought of Charles Sherwood of Long Ridge, Conn., a very short-horn bull, supposed to be a famous stock-getter, as the owner was noted as a scientific farmer, and cost $20 on the farm, and was sold by Charles Brown here to a butcher for $19, estimated 8c. ⅌ lb, which settles the price of Connecticut bull-beef, and the profit of bringing this kind of "improved stock" to the New-York market.

M. Phillips, 18 of Obe Duncan's good Dutchess County oxen, sold 11 at $118, full 11c. ⅌ lb; 43, a mixed lot of State stock, for Brill & Bro., sold at 7@11c. ⅌ lb, and $30 to $[illegible] a head.

MILCH COWS—Owing to the depressed state of the market for the lower grades of Beef, we must report the market hard for all kinds of Cows that are more valued for their flesh than for their milk. Only good fresh Cows are salable at what owners consider fair prices. The general average quality of Cows, with young calves, may be quoted at $35@$45, and extras higher, and very common, lower.

VEAL CALVES, of first-rate quality, are in demand, and some have sold at 8c. ⅌ lb, which is an advance upon former rates. The general quotations are 7@7½c. ⅌ lb live weight for the best calves, and 6@6½c. for ordinary, and lower for very poor ones.

THE SHEEP MARKET.

Receipts this week, 12,890.

The market opened on Monday morning with a very light supply in Sixth street, but the demand was lighter. We have never seen a duller Monday morning. Up to 10 o'clock not a drove was sold, and then the buyers came forward in the most diffident manner, and would not offer within 50c. a head of the rates current last Monday. At this we do not wonder, as the wholesale meat market has been quite overwhelmed during the past week, and on Saturday good mutton sold at 3@4c. ⅌ lb by the lot, in Washington market, and was peddled through the street by the quarter at 5@6c. ⅌ lb. It is also reported that the butchers have a good many Sheep in their yards, and that there is a great dullness among the pelt buyers, and with all these circumstances combined with very warm wet weather, is sufficient to depress the market. There is another cause that affects the market here. The Albany wholesale butchers are sending down such large quantities of mutton, which, upon a change of weather, must be forced to a sale, that the New-York butchers suffer, and consequently the drovers. That is the case this week. The highest sale that we witnessed Monday, was a lot of fat State wethers, about 95 lb, at an average of [illegible]c. ⅌ lb. This morning, however, with a great change in the weather, comes a great change in the market, and sheep have been sold easier at [illegible]c. ⅌ lb, and in some cases higher, than they could have been sold Monday at 6c. The arrivals this morning were light, and sales quicker, and really a lively market.

SHEEP BROKER'S SALES.

In Sixth street—O'Brien & McGraw sold 2,344 Sheep and Lambs at $4 65 average, including 180 State sheep at 6c. ⅌ lb, amounting to $1,083 17.

Robert H. Hume sold 2,616 Sheep and Lambs at $4 74 average.

At Chamberlin's—Kase & McPherson, Judd & Buckingham, A. Van Wert, John Kase and owners sold 160 Sheep and Lambs at $6 50; 152 at $4; 219 at $5 75; 372 at $5 50; 246 at $5 37½; 500 at $5; 300 at $4 75; 280 at $4 62½; 335 at $4 50; 169 at $4 12½; 415 at $4; 213 at $3 75; 165 at $3 62½; 200 at $3 50; 180 at $3 25.

DROVES AT O'BRIEN'S.

From New-York—J. T. B. Clark, 96; C. Clem, 543; Rowe & Co., 150; Henry Purdy, 149; David Vooek, 191; Wm. Reed & Co., 128; Hudson Steamboat Co., 29; S. Beckwith, [illegible]; R. Thomas, 143; Miller, 26; J. J. Van Allen, 129; G. M. Foster, 60; Rider Bros., 138.

From Ohio—Flagg & Putman, 357.

From New-Jersey—R. White, 34; John Stillwell, 54.

THE HOG MARKET.

Receipts this week, 41,658.

Quotations: $5 50@$6 12½ ⅌ cwt.

The weather has been very unfavorable for the trade a few days past. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday were "sticky," and all the hard frost of the previous days melted in a warm rain and south wind. This (Tuesday) morning is more favorable, being cooler, partially clear, with a drying wind, which will materially help trade. There is a prospect that Monday, which has heretofore been a great day of the week, will be thrown in the shade by the refusal of the Hudson River Road to bring down Hogs on Sunday.

The following are the figures given by George W. Dorman as the price of Hogs this week:

	Live wt.	Dead wt.
First quality, corn fed, large size	6 @6½c.	[illegible]
Second quality, corn fed	5¾@6c.	[illegible]
First quality, small sizes, fat and prime, for market butchers	[illegible]	[illegible]
Large size still fed, fat	[illegible]	[illegible]
Second quality still-fed	[illegible]	[illegible]

and he reports this morning that Hogs are coming faster than they can be sold at the above quotations, and the prices are likely to recede.

Pre-eminently a journal of News and of Literature, THE TRIBUNE has political convictions, which are well characterized by the single word REPUBLICAN. It is Republican in its hearty adhesion to the great truth that "God has made of one blood all nations of men"—Republican in its assertion of the equal and inalienable rights of all men to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"—Republican in its steadfast, earnest, defiant hostility to every scheme and effort of the Slave Power, from the Annexation of Texas to the great Rebellion, to grasp the empire of the New World and wield the resources of our country for its own aggrandizement—Republican in its antagonism to the aristocrats and despots of the Old World, who fondly hail in the perils and calamities suddenly thrust upon us by their American counterpart the overthrow and ruin of the Model Republic—Republican in its hope and trust, its faith and effort, that this atrocious Rebellion must result in the signal overthrow of its plotters, and the firm establishment of equal rights and equal laws throughout the whole extent of our country, wherein Liberty and Union shall indeed be "one and inseparable" henceforth and forever.

THE TRIBUNE devotes attention in calmer times, and to some extent in these, to Education, Temperance, Agriculture, Inventions, and whatever else may minister to the spiritual and material progress and well-being of mankind; but for the present its energies and its columns are mainly devoted to the invigoration and success of the War for the Union. Its special correspondents accompany every considerable army and report every important incident of that great struggle which we trust is soon to result in the signal and conclusive triumph of the National arms and in the restoration of Peace and Thrift to our distracted, bleeding country. We believe that no otherwise can a fuller or more accurate view of the progress and character of this momentous conflict be obtained than through the regular perusal of our columns. And we earnestly solicit the coöperation of all friends of the National cause, which we regard and uphold as that of Universal Humanity, to aid us in extending its circulation.

TO FARMERS.

Farmers have frequently written to us that they have saved one hundred times the cost of a year's subscription by reading our reports of the Cattle, Grain and other markets.

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"We wish every one might read it."—[New-Haven Palladium.

"It wears the appearance of verisimilitude, and keeps the reader awake without undue excitement."—[N. Y. Evening Post."

"Well written, and true to life."—[Worcester Palladium.

"Unquestionably truthful, and drawn with remarkable graphic power."—[Phila. Presbyterian.

"One of the most graphic and truthful delineations of Southern life that have been published."—[Utica Herald.

"The author has written for an honest purpose, from a high point of view, not to please popular taste or influence popular prejudice, but to make known the truth in relation to the South."—[St. Paul Press.

"It enters into the very heart of Southern life, and reveals its most secret mysteries."—[Boston Flag.

"Deeply interesting; marked by simplicity of style, natural dialogue, and true humor and pathos."—[Boston Journal.

[illegible]—[Philadelphia Chronicle.

"While not a novel, it is as captivating as 'the last new one.' It is truth dressed in her tastiest and most charming garb."—[Indianapolis Democrat.

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THE TRIBUNE FOR 1864.

PROSPECTUS.

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By very large outlays for early and authentic advices by telegraph and otherwise from its own correspondents with the various armies of the Union, and by special efforts to furnish such information respecting Markets, Crops, new discoveries or improvements in Agriculture, &c., as most specially interest farmers, we have assiduously labored to make a journal calculated to meet the wants and subserve the interests of the Producing Classes. That end we have at least measurably attained; for no other newspaper exists in America or Europe which is habitually read by nearly so many farmers and their families as is THE TRIBUNE to-day. We shall labor to increase both the number and the satisfaction of this by far the most numerous class of its patrons.

During the existence of the Whig party, this paper supported that party, though always sympathizing with the more liberal, progressive, Anti-Slavery "wing" thereof. When new issues dissolved or transformed old organizations through the spontaneous uprising of the people of the Free States against the repudiation of the Missouri Restriction, THE TRIBUNE heartily participated in that movement, and was known as Republican. When the long smoldering conspiracy to divide and destroy our country or reduce it entire to complete abasement to the Slave Power culminated in overt treason and rebellion, it naturally, necessarily regarded resistance to this conspiracy as paramount to all other considerations, and devoted all its energies and efforts to the maintenance of our Union. In every great controversy which has divided our country, it has been found on that side which naturally commands the sympathy and support of the large majority of school-houses and the decided minority of grog-shops, and so doubtless will be to the last.

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New-York, Sept. 10, 1863.

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